

Iraqi leader meets UAE envoys

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein met with special envoys of United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan on Monday amid indications they were seeking to boost efforts to reconcile Iraq and Syria. Iraqi Television reported that the Iraqi leader discussed "brotherly relations" with Sheikh Zayed's special representative, Ahmad Khalifa Al Suwaidi, and the UAE's official sources did not elaborate. But the envoys had been expected to discuss Arab efforts to end the rift between Iraq and Syria. Arab diplomatic sources said before the UAE envoys arrived in Baghdad that Iraq and the Arab Gulf states caused by the Iran-Iraq war. The arrival of the two envoys from the UAE, the Gulf state with the closest links with Iran, followed a visit to Damascus Saturday by Sheikh Zayed, who is also current chairman of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Syria's official news agency SANA reported Monday that the UAE leader met with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Sunday.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز صحيفة سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Arabs observe strike in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Most Palestinian shopkeepers in Arab Jerusalem closed their shops on Monday in protest at Israeli plans to take over part of the Jerusalem District Electricity Company. It was the first commercial strike since 1979 in support of the company, the largest Palestinian company under Israeli rule and a symbol of Palestinian nationalism, union officials said. The company's 450 workers stayed away from their jobs in their second strike this month over an Israeli cabinet resolution on Aug. 9 to reduce the firm's concession at the end of 1987 by preventing it from supplying electricity to Jews. "We see the decision to reduce the concession as part of taking over the whole company... it is part of their (the Israelis') policy to annex Jerusalem," Sahah Abu Qteish, deputy president of the company's union, said. A petition signed by hundreds of Palestinians at the company called on Arab countries to lend political and economic support to the ailing company. The firm has supplied electricity to the West Bank and Jerusalem since Ottoman Turkish rule under a 60-year concession that ends in December.

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Crown Prince meets Rifai and Muasher

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Monday called at the Prime Ministry and held talks with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Minister of Supply, Industry and Trade Rajai Al Muasher attended part of the meeting.

Parliament to meet

AMMAN (Petra) — Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi has called the Senate for a meeting on Thursday. Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Fayez also called the House for a meeting on Thursday.

UNRWA chief begins 5-day visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Giorgio Giacomelli, commissioner general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) arrived in Amman on Monday on a five-day visit to Jordan during which he will hold talks with government and UNRWA officials on services to Palestinian refugees living in the country. Mr. Giacomelli will also tour refugee camps and inspect the refugee conditions and will also hold meetings with heads of foreign diplomatic missions in the country specially those whose countries contribute financially to the UNRWA's budget. Mr. Giacomelli was welcomed at the airport by Director of UNRWA Affairs in Jordan Ele Saaf and a representative of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs.

Lebanon starts fuel rationing

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's authorities started rationing fuel oil on Monday because the country has enough to last for only 45 days, Economy, Industry and Oil Minister Victor Kassir said. He gave no details of the new system but said tighter control of fuel supplies would also help to curb smuggling and save on government spending. Petrol now costs 300 pounds (\$1.3) for 20 litres (4.4 gallons) compared with 80 pounds last year. Residents say some black market traders are asking for 700 pounds (\$3).

Iraq, Turkey to open second oil pipeline

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's second oil pipeline through Turkey will be officially inaugurated on Wednesday, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Monday. The pipeline, running to a Mediterranean terminal at Iskenderun, has a capacity of half a million barrels per day (bpd) and has been operating under test since July 27. It will boost Iraq's oil export ability via Turkey to 1.5 million bpd and total exports to two million bpd including 500,000 via Saudi Arabia.

Israel says Syria boosting fortifications

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's chief army engineer said Monday the Syrian army was increasing its fortifications along the Golan Heights. Brigadier General Yosef Eyal said Israeli soldiers needed advanced weapons and suitable training to enable them to overcome the new fortifications. "The Syrians in their sector are very active in putting up many varied fortifications," he told Israel Radio. "The activity is intensive, constant and unending." He said the fortifications included minefields, trenches, artillery batteries and moats.

INSIDE

- British minesweepers head for Gulf, page 2
- RI expects JD 4 million profit in 1987, page 3
- New phase in Jewish politics in the U.S., page 4
- Extended excavations confirm Aqaba's past as a flourishing port, page 5
- Seoul accepts latest IOC compromise, page 6
- Tension in Mideast keeps dollar firm, page 7
- S.Korea to free more political detainees, page 8

2 Israeli servicemen shot and wounded in Gaza

JABALIYA, occupied Gaza Strip (Agencies) — Unidentified assailants shot and wounded an Israeli soldier and another man described as a secret security service agent near this Palestinian refugee camp late Sunday, an army official said Monday. The two men were driving in a vehicle near an orchard on the outskirts of the camp Sunday when they were ambushed.

He said the victims suffered medium to serious wounds and were taken by helicopter to hospital. The Israeli news agency Iim said the soldier was shot in the waist and suffered serious injuries, while the other was injured lightly.

The Palestine press service, an agency monitoring news in the Israeli-occupied territories, said the second man was an agent of the Shin Bet internal security service. The army official denied the report but refused to identify the victims.

The army imposed a curfew after the attack, preventing people and vehicles from entering or leaving the occupied Gaza Strip, Iim said. Hundreds of people and cars waited at army roadblocks until the curfew was lifted at 7 a.m., it said.

Dozens of armed soldiers carrying maps on Monday combed the Jabalya camp, a shantytown of cement barracks where about 15,000 Palestinian refugees live. In Beirut, an anonymous telephone caller said the Palestinian group Force 17 was responsible for Sunday's attack. The caller told an international news agency in Beirut he spoke for Force 17, which is affiliated to the mainstream Fateh faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Guadalcanal prepares to lead next convoy

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — The U.S. carrier Guadalcanal, with a helicopter scouting ahead for mines, moved through the Gulf Monday as Iranian President Ali Khamenei warned America faces a "crushing blow" if its warships attack Iranian ships or ports. The U.S. navy kept a tight lid on its plans to escort another convoy of Kuwaiti vessels flying the American flag through the Gulf.

One Gulf shipping source close to the operation told Reuters a news blackout was imposed on the next convoy's movement so that Iran would not have time to lay fresh mines in the path of the reflagged tankers and their escort of American warships.

"News reports in the past have given the Iranians 36 hours' lead time..." he said.

The supertanker Bridgeton was holed by a mine on the first convoy to Kuwait last month and the second convoy was held up for 36 hours last week when a mine was found on its route. "The Iranians banged (a mine) into the Bridgeton with very, very accurate timing," the source said.

Four tankers including the Bridgeton were waiting off Kuwait while the U.S. navy cranked up its minehunting force of Sea Stallion helicopters aboard the Guadalcanal off Bahrain.

Witnesses monitoring Gulf activity from chartered vessels told AP the 11,000-tonne Guadalcanal moved to within about 19 kilometres of Bahrain from the mid-Gulf area.

The warship was first spotted there Sunday following a secret-shrouded passage through the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf's narrow gateway.

Mr. Khamenei warned Monday that the United States faces "an uncertain future in the Persian Gulf," Tehran Radio reported.

In a broadcast monitored in Cyprus, the state radio quoted him as saying: "If our ships are attacked by Iraq, we will undoubtedly hit at ships belonging to Iraq's allies with the U.S. flag or the flag of any other state flying above them."

"If the USA attacks our

Iraqis continue air attacks on Iran's oil sites

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said its fighter-bombers attacked an oilfield near Ahvaz in southwest Iran on Monday, intensifying pressure on Iran's economic lifeline amid rising tensions and a growing U.S. naval presence in the Gulf.

Iraq said its gunners shelled "military and industrial targets" in the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr Monday in retaliation for Iraqi attacks on villages in western Iran and "industrial units" in oil-rich Khuzestan province.

Tehran's official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the shelling "will continue until Iraq stops its attacks on non-military targets in Iran."

The Iraqi News Agency, also monitored in Nicosia, quoted a military spokesman in Baghdad as saying that the jets scored destructive hits on production installations in the Ahvaz no. 1 oilfield at 2.55 p.m. (1055 GMT).

There was no immediate comment from Tehran. But IRNA said that some Iranian civilians were killed and wounded in Iraq air raids Sunday.

Monday's air raid was the third in two days against Iran's major oilfields in southwest Khuzestan province. The Ahvaz no. 1 and no. 2 fields were hit Sunday. The bombing raids undermined Baghdad's growing impatience with Tehran's refusal to accept a July 20 United Nations Security Council resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in the nearly seven-year-old Gulf war.

Iraq has endorsed the resolution, but has stressed it will not accept a partial ceasefire in the so-called "tanker war" in the

Gulf because that benefits Iran by allowing it to ship its vital oil exports unhindered.

Iraq's air force began attacking Iranian oil installations a week ago after a three-week lull amid warnings by Tehran it was prepared to confront the U.S. navy task force escorting reflagged Kuwaiti tankers. Iran claims Kuwait aids Iraq and has singled out its ships for attack in recent months.

The Iraqi agency quoted the unidentified military spokesman as saying the air raids were the "implementation of Iraq's legitimate right to destroy the enemy's economic resources used for the prolongation of Iranian aggression against Iraq."

The spokesman denied Iranian allegations that civilian areas were hit in Sunday's air raids. But he accused Iran of "haphazard, incessant shelling of residential districts in Iraq even after the security council resolution."

He said that Iraqi civilians, including women and children, had been killed or wounded in the bombardments.

In an unexpected move, Iran's foreign minister said Sunday his country would welcome a visit by United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to discuss security in the Gulf.

Iraq has criticised the world

(Continued on page 3)

U.S. knew 'since 1981' Israel sold Iran arms

WASHINGTON — Reagan administration officials have known since early 1981 that Israel has been selling arms to Iran — with Israel often seeking American approval for such transactions — the Washington Post has reported after an investigation which included interviews with officials in the U.S. and Israel, an examination of documents obtained in Israel, and of testimony and exhibits from the Iran-contra hearings.

The report says the record is ambiguous on how the U.S. government responded to Israeli officials' request for permission to ship arms to Iran. At times, the account says, citing various Israeli and American sources, the response was vigorous objections; other times, implicit approval.

After Reagan's election in 1980, Menachem Meron, then-Israeli military attaché in Washington, asked Morris Amitai, a leading pro-Israeli lobbyist, to ask National Security Adviser Richard Allen about the attitude of the new administration to Israel's shipping some spare parts to Iran. Amitai interpreted Allen's subsequent response as being a "wink and a nod" and "an amber light" to go ahead.

Once Reagan took office, former defence minister Ariel Sharon raised the issue with then U.S. secretary of state, Alexander Haig. There are conflicting reports about whether Haig actually approved the transaction of U.S.-made spare parts. Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger told a congressional panel investigating the Iran-contra affair that the Israeli officials used to tell him, "Al Haig said it (the sales) was okay."

One of Iran's major deals with Israel was a reported \$200 million shipment that began in July 1981, the report said.

The report complained that the congressional investigation of the Iran-contra affair shed little light

(Continued on page 3)

Jordan receives Saudi aid instalment

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has received \$119.3 million in aid this month from Saudi Arabia, the only country still honouring pledges made at an Arab summit in 1978.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, thanked Saudi Arabia for the payment, the second aid instalment this year. Petra did not specify the amount but Finance ministry sources quoted by Reuters said the Saudis had paid \$119.3 million this month and a similar amount in March.

Mr. Rifai expressed Jordan's thanks and appreciation to King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia and for the Saudi government for its continuing support to Jordan.

The Saudi support, the prime minister added, is a true manifestation of the brotherly and distinguished relations between His Majesty King Hussein and King Fahd and also a demonstration of Saudi Arabia's keenness on further bolstering existing bilateral relations and supporting Jordan's steadfastness.

At the 1978 Arab summit in Baghdad, seven oil-producing states promised aid to Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organisation to help them against Israel.

Jordan was promised \$1.25 billion a year, but only Saudi Arabia has consistently paid its full share of \$358 million. The agreement expires next year.

155 killed as Northwest plane crashes in Detroit

ROMULUS, Michigan (Agencies) — All 153 people aboard a Northwest Airlines jet which crashed on a highway died in the fiery plunge, the second worst air crash in U.S. history, aviation officials said Monday.

The plane caught fire seconds after takeoff Sunday night, clipped a building and plummeted into cars on a busy highway in Romulus, a western suburb of Detroit. The six-lane highway links Detroit and Chicago.

A spokesman for the Wayne County sheriff's office, whose jurisdiction includes Romulus, said in addition to those on board at least two motorists died in the tragedy.

"There were no survivors," said Northwest spokeswoman Sandy Dahlen.

The cause of the disaster was not immediately known. Some press reports suggested there might have been a bomb aboard, but federal officials discounted the reports.

Dahlen said the plane was carrying 144 passengers and nine crew. Three of the crew members were in transit and not working on the flight.

Steven Rothmeier, the airline's

Minister: Limits on degree equivalence aim at curbing unemployment rate

By Salameh Ne'matt and Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Higher Education Minister Nassereddin Al Assad said Monday that a recent ministry decision to limit its endorsement of foreign university degrees was aimed at curbing the surplus of graduates in certain fields of higher education and direct students to specialisations more relevant to the Kingdom's economic problems.

The decision, introduced by the Higher Education Council and endorsed by the minister, stated that the ministry was "not committed" to issue university degree equivalence to students who studied abroad unless tajwih averages of these applicants complied with the requirements of Jordanian universities. These requirements state that medical degrees would be endorsed only if the student obtained a minimum average of 85 per cent; engineering students would need a tajwih average of 80 per cent; and 65 per cent for all other specialisations.

The decision, according to the minister, exempts those who have already obtained acceptance from universities abroad based on this year's first semester grades and those who obtained tajwih before this year and are serving the compulsory military service and intend to apply for further education abroad.

Dr. Assad speaking at the Monday press conference — an informal gathering of local and foreign journalists — explained that the decision would go into effect at



Dr. Nassereddin Al Assad

least four years from now as 1987 tajwih graduates start graduating from universities abroad.

He said that "it is the right of parents and students to know about the decision ahead of time."

The "decision," he added, "is meant as a scientific and academic advice for our children in certain specialisations to make them aware of the needs of the society and the country's development plans."

"We want to urge our children to avoid fields where supply is more than demand," the minister said. "This is one aspect of the unemployment problem."

Dr. Assad explained that Jordan, with its scarce resources, suffers from an economic situation that requires careful planning.

Defending the ministry's measure, the minister said that the decision in no way deprived students from seeking education abroad. "The ministry does not object to students studying abroad," he said. "But it will not

be committed to issue equivalence to their degrees."

He explained that after graduation, "we would be willing to offer those who prove they will work in the private sector a document that would serve as a degree equivalence."

The minister said that if students insisted on certain specialisations, the government could not guarantee employment. "We cannot have double standards," the minister said. "How can we consider this a free system and then be obliged to provide employment in the government?"

Responding to questions raised over the legality of the decision, Dr. Assad said that there was no contravention of the people's right to education enshrined in international law as well as the Jordanian Constitution. "The Constitution does not say we should provide jobs in the public sector," Dr. Assad said. "Countries that guarantee public jobs also control education," he pointed out.

The minister stressed that the problem of unemployment among medicine and engineering graduates in Jordan was caused by a surplus of graduates in these fields. Currently 6,000 Jordanians are studying medicine and 10,853 in engineering studies in universities abroad, and 620 medicine graduates and 1,377 engineering graduates have been registered at the Civil Service Commission by the end of last month as unemployed, he said. These figures included only those who registered at the

(Continued on page 3)

Hess dies in prison

WEST BERLIN (Agencies) — Former Hitler deputy Fuehrer Rudolf Hess died Monday at age 93. The Western allies announced. A statement released by British diplomatic spokesman Anderson W. Purdon said that Hess died in the Spandau military prison in West Berlin. Hess had been serving a life sentence there for war crimes.

Cause of death was not released.

"After the necessary arrangements have been made, the body of Rudolf Hess will be handed over for burial to the family residing in the Federal Republic of Germany," according to the written statement released to the news media.

Security sources quoted by Reuters said Hess was taken to the British military hospital from Spandau prison where he was sent in 1947 to serve a life sentence under the guard of the Soviet, U.S., British and French military who have formally occupied the city since the defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945.

Outside the hospital, a modern five-storey building, about five British soldiers stood guard but there was no other sign of activity. It was not clear if Hess' body was still there.

Arab held, arms found in probe into Adhami attack

LONDON (AP) — Detectives have arrested an Arab and uncovered a cache of explosives and weapons destined to be used in guerrilla attacks throughout Europe, Scotland Yard said Monday.

The discovery came in the investigation of the attempted assassination last month of one of the Arab World's most controversial political cartoonists, Ali Naji Awad Al Adhami.

Mr. Adhami, who was shot in the head on July 22 while walking on a London street, remains in critical condition on a life-support machine.

Scotland Yard announced that detectives, led by Superintendent Alan Talbot, raided an apartment in Hull, a port town on the northeast England coast, last Wednesday and arrested an Arab suspect and found the munitions cache.

The Arab, identified only as a 28-year-old research assistant, was being questioned in London, Scotland Yard said. No charges have been brought against him. A second Arab was held for

questioning in London but was to be released later Monday, it said.

The munitions included 31 kilograms of explosives, four assault rifles, seven hand grenades, bomb-making equipment such as detonators and clocks, and a variety of ammunition and magazines, the announcement said.

"All the items were hidden in the flat and, we believe, were being stored for future terrorist attacks Europe-wide," it said. "The hunt for the attempted assassin of Mr. Adhami continues," it said.

Mr. Adhami, a Palestinian, worked for the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Qabas and was an outspoken critic of not only Israel but also the Palestine Liberation Organisation and many facets of Arab life and politics.

He was shot by a lone gunman who walked up and fired at short range, hitting him in the head, Scotland Yard did not explain why the announcement was delayed so long after the raid took place early last Wednesday.

U.K. minesweepers head for Gulf

Carlucci: U.S. can deal with mine threat

LONDON (Agencies) — A squadron of British mine warfare vessels quietly left their base in Scotland for the Gulf Monday as diplomats tried to find them a port to operate from when they start mine-hunting in the waterway.

Blester and Hurworth sailed from Rosyth after six days of hectic preparation following Britain's decision to send a mine-sweeping force to join three warships and a support vessel already protecting British shipping in the Gulf.

Two other ships, Brecon and Breckley, and the support vessel later Monday for the 6,000-mile trip to the war zone. The journey is expected to take up to five weeks.

Defence Ministry sources said the repair ship Diligence, based the Falklands, would also sail to the Gulf to link up with the British task force.

As the squadron left harbour, British diplomats continued efforts to find the ships an operating base in the area.

"Several countries have been approached. You can understand their position in the circumstances. That is why it is being done discreetly. But defence chiefs would like to have it set up as soon as possible," one official said.

Diplomatic sources in London said they expected a decision in the next few days on Dutch proposals for a European minesweeping effort, possibly under the auspices of the Western European Union (WEU), a seven-nation group whose aims include improved defence coordination.

"It would not be surprising if there was a decision to send some kind of minesweeping force. I don't think it would be under any sort of unified command, but the WEU idea would give some countries a reason for going," one diplomat said.

The diplomatic sources said the British minesweeping fleet would still operate under the senior

British commander in the area although they would expect local cooperation between friendly nations with minesweepers in the region.

British officials have said the British mine warfare vessels, built of reinforced plastic and carrying sophisticated detection and sweeping equipment, would concentrate on clearing a defined channel in the danger zone.

Since British Defence Secretary George Younger announced the decision to send the mine warfare ships to the Gulf, dockyard employees have worked round the clock to install extra machine-guns and a cannon as well as satellite communications equipment.

Meanwhile U.S. officials said Sunday the United States and its allies can cope with Iranian mine-laying in the Gulf, but Iran should not assume U.S. forces in the region will limit themselves to finding and disabling mines.

"We certainly have the capability in the Gulf to deal with the mine threat," National Security Adviser Frank Carlucci said on NBC-TV's Meet the Press.

Mr. Carlucci added, however, that the threat posed by mines could not be eliminated entirely.

Iran's Parliament Speaker, Hashemi Rafsanjani, was quoted Sunday as saying that Iran can "make mines like seeds." The remarks were carried by Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Cyprus.

White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker, interviewed on CBS-TV's Face the Nation, blamed Iran for planting mines in the Gulf, and said international efforts to counter the mine-laying would go on.

"It is clear that someone, I

suppose probably Iran, is trying to dissuade the United States from carrying out its objective, which is freedom of commerce on the high seas in the Gulf," he said. "We're doing a lot about it, and it's become an international effort. ... I think that will continue."

The U.S. mine-clearing effort should not be a signal to Iran that the United States will take only protective actions, he said.

"The Iranians should not be deceived. They should know that although the United States has acted in a restrained way, that the United States will not fail to protect its own vital interests," Mr. Baker said.

The chief of staff stopped short of discussing possible retaliatory moves, saying: "I sort of hope the Iranians wonder about that."

Mr. Carlucci said the navy is "putting resources in the Gulf and we expect to be able to protect our ships."

He did not discuss specific ship movements, but reports from the Gulf said the USS Guadalcanal had arrived in the region overnight and U.S. minesweeping helicopters were flying what appeared to be practice drills over the Gulf.

The Guadalcanal was dispatched to the Gulf when mines threatened to disrupt the U.S. plan for refueling 11 Kuwaiti oil tankers and protecting them against any Iranian attack.

One U.S.-refueled tanker, the Bridgeton, was damaged when it hit a mine in the Gulf last month while under U.S. navy escort. A U.S.-operated supertanker last week hit a mine in the Gulf of Oman. And on Saturday, a privately owned supply boat sank when it hit a mine in the Gulf of Oman.

Democratic Rep. Lee Hamilton, interviewed on the NBC Programme, said many lawmakers remain deeply concerned about U.S. involvement in the Gulf. "There's a nervousness in the Con-

gress," he said, adding that many objections center around what he called the "open-ended" nature of the U.S. commitment.

Once the ships were refueled, though, "I agree with Mr. Carlucci ... that we ought not now to cut and run. ... We have to show restraint in our military posture, but we certainly can't pull out," Mr. Hamilton said.

"We are hopeful that we can reduce tensions in the Gulf, to the point where escorting will no longer be necessary," Mr. Carlucci said. He said the administration hopes for a follow-up United Nations ceasefire resolution "which would put some teeth into the first resolution, by imposing sanctions on whichever party did not adhere."

Asked whether the War Powers Act was likely to be invoked, Mr. Carlucci said it was a legal matter. The resolution requires the president to consult with Congress before sending U.S. forces into hostilities.

"In terms of the number of ships that are in the Gulf, it's relatively small compared to our total navy. ... If, in some point in time, it appears to the lawyers that we should notify Congress under the War Powers Act, the president will clearly do so," he said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Baker said the United States is "well aware" of the potential threat of Iranian attacks on United States embassies or other installations and is working to counter it.

"I believe the United States government is well aware of the dangers involved and has taken appropriate steps to provide against them," he said in response to questions about reports that Iran may be preparing for a round of embassy attacks.

Robert Lamb, chief of the State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security, said Friday in Washington that Iranian officials have been checking out U.S. embassies to find potential vulnerable targets.

U.S. reportedly plans \$1b arms sales to Saudis

WASHINGTON (AP) — A newspaper report Monday says a U.S. government plan to sell 1,600 Maverick anti-tank missiles to Saudi Arabia, withdrawn earlier this year in the face of congressional opposition, will be resubmitted to lawmakers.

The missiles will be included in a proposed \$1-billion arms sale to the Saudis, said the Washington Post, quoting sources familiar with the plan.

Administration officials had said in July that the Maverick request would be resubmitted within a few months. The Post said the administration is expected to notify Congress shortly after it returns from its summer recess on Sept. 9.

In addition to the Maverick missiles, the package would include 14 of the latest F-15 jet fighter planes and improvements for earlier-model F-15s and other U.S. weaponry already in Saudi stockpiles, the Post reported.

The administration withdrew a notification of sale for the Maverick deal in June when congressional opposition stiffened after reports that the Saudi Air Force did not aid the USS Stark when it was attacked by an Iraqi jet on May 17.

The administration insisted that the attack, in which 37 U.S. sailors died, was inadvertent and that the Saudi response was proper and prompt.

In Santa Barbara, California, where President Ronald Reagan is vacationing, an administration official who asked not to be identified told the Associated Press that there was never any consideration given to abandoning the sale to the Saudis.

Charges dropped against Karami murder suspect

BEIRUT (R) — Charges were dropped Monday against one of two people detained in connection with the murder last June of Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami, officials said.

Judicial officials told Reuters army Sergeant Ibrahim Dagher would be set free after charges of facilitating Mr. Karami's murder and violating state security were dropped for lack of evidence.

Mr. Karami was killed when a bomb ripped through his army helicopter on June 1. Another soldier, Elie Sleibi, is being held by Swedish authorities for questioning.

Ownership of \$8m in Iran arms deal in Swiss accounts remains unresolved

WASHINGTON (AP) — One of the central issues left unresolved in the Iran-contra affair is the ownership of roughly \$8 million that sits frozen in Swiss bank accounts once controlled by mid-levelmen.

The money appears to be a key element in the case that Lawrence Walsh, the independent counsel, is trying to build against several of the principal figures in the affair, according to sources familiar with the investigation.

"The U.S. government apparently aims to argue that these funds were illegally converted, and therefore, are U.S. government funds, and there was fraud involved," said one person with knowledge of the investigation. He spoke on condition of not being identified.

Another source, also speaking anonymously, said Mr. Walsh apparently will take the position that funds were misappropriated, and those involved will be indicted.

James Wieghart, Mr. Walsh's spokesman, said he could not comment on details of the criminal investigation.

Richard Secord, the retired air force major-general who helped Lt.-Col. Oliver North run the Iran-contra operations, told Congress the money belonged to the "enterprise" operated by Gen. Secord and his business partner, Albert Hakim.

Col. North was with the National Security Council at the time, while Gen. Secord and Mr. Hakim were acting as private

businessmen.

The money is held in accounts that received payments from the sale of U.S.-made arms to Iran in 1985 and 1986. Out of that money, Gen. Secord, Mr. Hakim and Col. North created a private air wing to assist the Nicaraguan contra rebels during a period in which Congress had banned U.S. military aid to the group.

After the Iran-contra affair was exposed last November, the Justice Department acted swiftly to freeze disbursement of the money under a U.S.-Swiss legal aid treaty.

Sam Hirsch, a spokesman for the Senate Iran-contra committee, said \$1.4 million is in a Lake Resources Account. Lake Resources was the Secord-Hakim operation.

Mr. Hirsch said another \$6.5 million is in a Swiss fiduciary known as CSF. "Of that \$6.5 million, \$5.5 million is in a subsidiary Merrill Lynch account in Geneva, and about \$1 million is in Strauss Turnbull, a London investment house."

The money can be moved to various investments, but it can't be disbursed, Mr. Hirsch said. Mr. Walsh has not yet been given access to all the Swiss financial records, and last week he complained that his investigation has been slowed as a result.

Although a Swiss court ruled that the records should be turned over, Mr. Hakim, Gen. Secord and Iranian arms merchant Manucher Ghorbanifar appealed to the Swiss supreme court, which

said it would rule on the case on Aug. 20.

Mr. Ghorbanifar, who served as an intermediary between the Iranian government and the Second team, lost about \$10 million on the deal, according to his attorney, Stuart Pierson. Mr. Pierson is considering filing a claim for the money in Switzerland.

Mr. Ghorbanifar's associate, Saudi financier Adnan Khashoggi, also says he lost money. In simple terms, Mr. Khashoggi and Gen. Ghorbanifar lent money to Gen. Secord, who bought the weapons from the U.S. government. Once the weapons were delivered, Iran paid Mr. Ghorbanifar, who was to reimburse Mr. Khashoggi.

The Iranian government never reimbursed Mr. Ghorbanifar completely because the Khomeini government believed the United States didn't live up to its end of the deal in a shipment of Hawk missile spare parts, Mr. Pierson said.

"The equipment was at first not delivered and when it was delivered a substantial portion was defective," he said. "There was a 500 per cent markup, contrary to assurances they were getting an interagency U.S. price."

The report by a presidential panel that investigated the Iran-contra affair indicates Mr. Khashoggi placed \$15 million in Lake Resources, the Hakim-Secord account, on May 14, 1986. But he was only repaid \$8 million from the account.

Israeli charged with murder, kidnapping in California

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A Jewish Israeli was charged with murder for allegedly arranging a killing so he could offer authoritative information about the crime in a change for lenient treatment in another case, a prosecutor said.

Michael Birman, 31, was charged Friday with murder, robbery and kidnapping in the death of a 21-year-old Jew, who allegedly was killed at random and shot to death on April 18, said Deputy District Attorney Pamela A. Ferraro.

Two years after the Reyes killing, Birman allegedly called the Los Angeles County sheriff's department Malibu subdivision from the Riverside County Jail. Ms. Ferraro said.

The prosecutor said Birman allegedly told deputies the num-

ber of shots fired, the calibre of the weapon and the victim's identity, right down to an incorrect address that still was in Reyes' wallet.

Birman's knowledge of the crime so soon after it occurred in another county made detectives suspect that he was involved, investigators said.

At the time of the telephone call, Birman had been in the Riverside County Jail for a year following his arrest in Palm Desert on cocaine possession charges.

Birman's three alleged accomplices, all of California, are awaiting trial in connection with the murder.

They have pleaded innocent and their next hearing is scheduled on Sept. 4.

U.S. Air Force head says Lavi not in Israel's interest

TEL AVIV (R) — U.S. Secretary of the Air Force Edward Aldridge said Monday the United States believed it would be a mistake if Israel continued to develop the costly Lavi warplane.

"Our view of the programme is that it would not be in the best interest of the Israeli government because of the impact it will have on other programmes that are equally important," Aldridge, on a five-day visit to Israel, told reporters.

Israel's cabinet postponed a decision on the future of the Lavi for a seventh time Sunday. Washington has urged it be scrapped though Israel has spent \$1.5 billion, mostly in U.S. aid money, on developing the plane.

A cabinet statement Sunday said the vote was delayed for a week or two because Prime

Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who favours continuing the project, wanted the divided government to reach a more united stand.

Aldridge said Israel ultimately would decide the Lavi's fate for itself and Israeli-American joint military efforts would be unhindered by a vote to continue the project.

"We would be disappointed but as far as relationships that exist, it will not affect any relationships between the U.S. and the Israeli government," Aldridge said.

Israeli defence chiefs praise the Lavi's technological prowess but say the country should scrap it and invest in a less costly U.S. alternative, such as U.S.-made F-16 fighters, to free money for other military needs.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

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BBC WORLD SERVICE

07:00 Newsweek 07:30 Musical Times 08:00 Newsweek 08:30 Financial News 09:00 World News 09:30 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30 Nature Notebook 10:45 Recording of the Week 11:00 Newsweek 11:30 Counterpoint 11:45 World News 12:00 24 Hours: News Summary 12:30 Frontline 12:45 Network U.K. 11:00 World News 11:45 Reflections 11:55 Characters at Court 12:30 Composer and Patron 12:00 World News 12:30 British Press Review 12:15 Good Books 12:30 Detective 12:45 Music for a While 13:00 News Summary: The Elements of Music 13:30 Half-Hour Drama: Pursuing 14:00 World News 14:00 News About Britain 14:15 A Letter from Scotland 14:25 Sportsworld 14:30 Album Time 15:00 Radio Newsweek 15:15 Horus 15:45 Sports Round-up 16:00 World News 16:00 24 Hours: News Summary 16:30 Sportsweek 16:45 Recording of the Week 17:00 News Summary: Outlook 17:45 Musical Times 18:00 Radio Newsweek 18:15 Questions of Faith 18:45 Kings of Swing 19:00 World News 19:00 Commentary 19:15 Omnibus 19:30 Performing Arts Music 20:15 The History of Radio Comedy 20:30 Open Door Policies 20:40 Book Choice 20:15 The History of Radio Comedy 20:50 Sports Round-up 21:00

VOICE OF AMERICA

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Crown Prince receives nonviolence delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received at the Royal Court Monday a delegation from the California-based Resource Centre for Nonviolence currently on a visit to Jordan.

The Crown Prince briefed the delegation on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iran-Iraq war, stressing the need to end the fighting.

Prince Hassan also outlined Jordan's efforts to achieving a

just and peaceful solution to the Middle East problem through an international peace conference to be attended by all parties concerned and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

The Crown Prince replied to questions from the delegation members. He also welcomed their interest in working in the U.S. to support peace efforts in the Middle East.

Crown Prince condoles Ammarin family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan condoned Monday the Ammarin family on the death of Salameh Marzouk Ammarin, the father of Parliament member Nazih Ammarin. The Crown Prince deputed his adviser Maj.-Gen. Mohammad Al Shobaki to convey his condolences.

Man in custody after killing sister in clash

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 21-year-old man was in custody Monday pending interrogation in connection with the murder of his 31-year-old sister Sunday.

A police spokesman said that the man, identified only as AM, killed his sister by stabbing her several times with a sharp knife following a violent quarrel between them.

The man, who is in the Armed Forces, returned home Sunday where he lives with his mother and sister, but found his mother alone.

According to police sources,

the man waited for his sister to return home and asked her where she had been all day. The sources said that the brother and sister quarrelled and the man took a knife and stabbed the girl. He later turned himself in at the Jabal Hussein police centre, admitting to the crime.

The public prosecutor and the director of the Jabal Hussein security centre were investigating, according to the source.

The body of the girl was taken to Jordan University Hospital for an autopsy.

Jordan to attend Arab economic council meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is taking part in the 43rd meeting of the Arab Economic and Social Council due to be held at the Arab League headquarters in Tunis August 30.

An announcement, following a Cabinet meeting, said that Minis-

ter of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher will lead Jordan's delegation to that meeting.

The meeting will be devoted to the implementation of the council's earlier meetings which focus on means of developing trade among Arab states.



Her Majesty Queen Noor inspects the restoration of mosaics on Mount Nebo Monday (Petra photo).

Queen inspects Madaba mosaics

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday visited several archaeological sites in Mount Nebo Monday to see the most recent mosaic findings and the work currently under way to preserve and restore these mosaics, according to a press release from the Office of Her Majesty the Queen.

Accompanied by the director general of the Department of Antiquities, director general of the Tourism Authority, and the

director of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, Queen Noor was received at the site of Siyagha by the governor of Madaba and Father Michele Piccirillo of the Franciscan Archaeological Institute.

The Queen toured the basement of Mount Nebo church, where arches were uncovered and restored this summer. She also met with students working on the restoration and preservation of mosaics found in the area.

From Siyagha, Queen Noor went on to Ayoun Mousa archaeological site and inspected the newly-uncovered church. Excavations began in the summer of 1984 by the Department of Antiquities and were directed by Father Piccirillo.

Her Majesty and the accompanying delegation discussed means by which the existing mosaics in the 6th century A.D. church can be preserved.

Princess Basma tours QASWF projects

TAFILEH (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, chairperson of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QASWF) made an inspection tour Monday of the Tafleeh Governorate in southern Jordan.

Her first stop was at Rweim village where she laid the foundation stone for the community centre financed by the QASWF.

The centre, which was set up on 250 square-metre of land at the cost of JD 30,000, will be operational by the middle of the coming year. The centre will offer social services, specially to local women and children of the 1,000 resident village, according to the QASWF's spokesman.

The spokesman said that two other community centres will be set up at Tafleeh at a cost of JD 170,000 and another at Basira at a cost of JD 30,000 within the QASWF's programmes.

Princess Basma inspected a training course for men and women teachers employed in the special education programme for handicapped children. The course, which is being attended by 78 teachers, has been organised by the social development centre in Tafleeh in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the University of Jordan.

The four-day course is discussing basic concepts of children's growth and education and ways

for children to overcome difficulties in learning due to hearing, sight or other physical impairments.

Princess Basma also inspected a training course for women working in rural areas and attended the final session of their training. The course was organised by the QASWF and attended by 30 participants, all local women from Tafleeh Governorate.

Women attending the course have been taught methods of developing social, economic, agricultural, and health services, with special emphasis on the role of local rural women in this type of development.

RJ expects JD 4m profit after tough year in 1986

By Alistair Lyon
Reuters

AMMAN — The national carrier Royal Jordanian Airline, due to start going private in October, expects to move into the black this year after losing JD 1.78 million in 1986.

Nasir Aryne, vice president for corporate planning, in an interview with Reuters, forecast a net profit of JD 4 million on the basis of the first seven months' results, excluding foreign exchange profits or losses.

He said part of this would be proceeds from the sale to British Caledonian of one of the airline's two Boeing 747s.

The rest would derive from operating profit, projected at JD 1.3 million this year, and non-operating profit, mainly from handling services to foreign airlines flying to Jordan.

Royal Jordanian, which changed its name from Alia eight months ago, made a net loss of JD 1.78 million in 1986, company figures show.

Passenger traffic rose slightly to 653,724 in January-July from 647,493 in the same period of 1986, while seat factor rose 6.3 per cent to 55.8 and load factor 4.4 per cent to 50.6.

Passenger traffic from the United States grew 13.3 per cent after a two-year drop, Aryne said. "We also had good growth of 11.5 per cent to the Far East, but there is still no turnaround in Middle East traffic, down 17.9 per cent."

The North American market is vital to the airline, providing more than a third of its business. Munib Tougan, the airline's vice-president for public relations, told Reuters: "Reagan hurt us last year by listing the Middle East as a high risk because of terrorism."

The airline is gradually replacing its ageing Boeing 707s and 727s with European Airbus. It currently has one Boeing 747 and eight Lockheed TriStars in its fleet of 19 aircraft serving 42 cities around the world.

Tougan said he expected a decision this year on whether to buy McDonnell Douglas MD-11S or Airbus A-340S for long routes. "We are shooting to open routes to Montreal, New Delhi and Calcutta this year, and maybe Rio de Janeiro via Africa," he said.

Aryne said new routes next year might include Manila and Jakarta, and extensions to Australia or Japan were possible.

The 23-year-old company plans a partial privatisation in October by selling 10 per cent of its shares to employees at concessionary rates, with a further 30 per cent to be sold to Jordanians later.

"The aim is to gain mobility needed to cope with changes in the industry," Tougan said.

Expert advocates administrative reform

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior Lebanese official Monday suggested the formation of a specialised council to supervise and implement government plans for administrative and civil service reform.

Fawzi Hbaish, director of the Lebanese civil employment office, said such a body would be of "paramount necessity" to achieve administrative reform in Jordan.

Dr. Hbaish, who has written several books on administrative development, made this suggestion on the second day of a specialised conference on the role of top level management in administrative reform.

under secretaries and the heads of various government departments, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Sunday.

In his paper, "Reform of Administration and Legislation," Dr. Hbaish pointed to loopholes in the present civil service system which creates problems for efficiency in public administration.

He noted that government departments have low labour productivity. He said that govern-

ment offices have witnessed a flight of qualified people and a lack of coordination.

Dr. Hbaish charged that salaries were insufficient, that employees do not get sufficient training, that their work is not properly supervised, and that favouritism is prevalent in government employment.

He advocated legislation to improve the efficiency of administration in the Kingdom.

Prince Abdullah opens art show

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah opened an art exhibition by Mohammad Al Keswani at the Housing Bank Gallery Monday. On display at the month-long exhibition are 40 oil paintings representing Arab culture, lifestyle and the environment in Jordan. The opening ceremony was attended by a number of the Department of Culture and Arts officials, Arab and foreign diplomats and those interested in the art movement in Jordan.

Hamad Basin project to raise living standards

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian government will implement the first phase of the Hamad Basin project in the eastern desert regions of the Kingdom in the last quarter of 1987, the project director, Mohammad Al Shakhateh, announced Monday.

He said that the project is designed to improve the living condition of the people in the basin area by helping them exploit the natural resources and increase their animal stock.

Dr. Shakhateh said that the government began implementing a pilot project at the beginning of the year by carrying out the first phase at Rweishid, an area of 750,000 hectares, forming nearly 20.4 per cent of the total area of the Jordanian part of the Hamad Basin.

The whole Hamad area is divided among Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Syria. The four countries are cooperating in the basin project, but each country is implementing the project in its own section.

The government has prepared the basic needs for the project and made available the necessary funds, equipment, technicians, and manpower on this project, Dr. Shakhateh pointed out.

consider the Rweishid region as a trial for carrying out the remainder of the Jordanian part of the project.

Dr. Shakhateh said that the area is generally poor in vegetation due to insufficient rainfall, which averages 70 to 80 millimetres a year. The rain normally collects in the wadis and is useful for pastureland.

At least 8.5 million cubic metres of water collect in the wadis of Hamad Basin annually, helping in the production of at least 52 tonnes of dry fodder for animal feed, Dr. Shakhateh noted.

Dr. Shakhateh said that the local population raises livestock estimated at 90,000 heads at present, of which five per cent are goats.

He also said that plans have been made for developing the natural resources in the basin. One plan involves the more efficient use of surface water to serve the needs of the people and their animals. The second entails the exploitation of underground water to irrigate land in the dry season. This involves drilling of four to six artesian wells to a depth of between 300 and 400 metres. These wells are expected to yield at least 48,000 cubic

metres of water annually, Dr. Shakhateh noted.

The third plan, he said, aims to improve the pastureland to raise more animals and prevent soil erosion. This plan aims at increasing the output of pastures from 110 kilograms per hectare to 250 kilograms annually.

The Hamad Basin will be planted with shrubs and the lands will be fenced off to prevent grazing for at least one year to allow vegetation to grow, Dr. Shakhateh said.

He said that the fourth plan entails improving the development of animal wealth and aims at increasing the number and the production of livestock. The government will establish a centre for fattening sheep which is expected to make available at least 13,000 heads of sheep every year for the market by the second year, Dr. Shakhateh said.

He said that the government's fifth plan is designed to develop educational services in the Hamad Basin by setting up schools, social centres, cooperative societies, and a housing project. The sixth plan entails the exploitation of wind power to generate electric power in order to pump underground water.

The total cost of the Rweishid project is expected to reach JD 7 million and will be implemented within the current 1986-1990 five year national development plan, Dr. Shakhateh said.

He said that the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development will provide JD 1.9 million to finance the project.

Dr. Shakhateh noted that the idea of developing the Hamad Basin dates back to a Jordanian proposal made in the early seventies and won approval from Arab states in 1975.

In 1979, the Arab Centre for the Study of Dry Regions and Arid Territories supplied \$2.2 million to finance the preparation for the project. The preparatory work was completed by 1983, according to Dr. Shakhateh.

He said that Jordan's share of the basin is estimated at 36,720 square kilometres, nearly one fifth of the total Hamad Basin region. This basin constitutes nearly 42.7 per cent of the total area of the East Bank.

Dr. Shakhateh said that 27,000 people now live in the Hamad Basin, of whom 14,200 are settled while the rest are bedouins.

These people depend mainly on animals for their livelihood.

Minister defends limits on degree equivalence

(Continued from page 1)

commission and that the numbers of unemployed could be considerably higher.

"Any country that respects itself would feel a responsibility to confront the problem and plan to tackle it from all its aspects," Dr. Assad said.

The minister said the decision was based on studies presented by the Ministry of Health and faculties of medicine urging higher requirements for medicine students.

"I would like to confirm that we have absolutely no intention to stop students from studying abroad," the minister stressed. "If that was the intention we would have left it to other authorities to stop people from travelling abroad."

Asked whether there was a possibility that the law could be revoked before its implementation nearly four years from now, the minister said that if the present higher education council and himself were still in existence, the decision would be enacted after the necessary legislation. Referring to unemployment, the minister urged other ministries and government institutions to work together towards solving what he described as "a difficult socio-economic problem." Referring to his ministry's measure, Dr. Assad said: "I am ringing the bell (of warning) and taking the first step."

"Unfortunately," he added, "people have not yet gotten the message. Everybody wants to become a doctor or an engineer."

He criticised the press, particularly columnists and commentators, for what he believed was a misrepresentation of the ministry's decision. "The decision was in one valley and they were writing in another valley. They (writers) were making judgements about falsehoods."

He agreed, however, that the decision was taken based on "scientific studies and not public opinion."

At the outset of the press meeting, Dr. Musa Kelani, the gathering's organiser and director general of the Department of Press and Publications, quoted "banned magazines" which he said described the ministry's decision as "a violation of people's right to education and the Jordanian Constitution." Dr. Assad later dismissed the accusations as baseless.

Dr. Assad said that Jordan had the third highest level of higher education in the world after the United States and Sweden. The Kingdom has 34.1 per cent of people aged between 18 and 24 currently studying in universities. The U.S. tops the list with 57.1 per cent followed by 36.8 per cent in Sweden. He pointed out that in Jordan, 75 per cent of the population was under 35 years of age.

studying in Jordanian universities and about 40,000 studying abroad in 50 countries and 250 universities.

"By the year 1990, we will be facing problems that we better start planning for from now," the minister said.

He said 1,301 Jordanian students were registered during last year as graduates from universities abroad. The figure could rise to 1,500 counting students who did not register. He added that out of this year's tawjihi graduates, nearly 21,000 out of 36,000 students had obtained an average over 65 per cent, which is the minimum accepted by the ministry for university education. The minister said that 6,000 tawjihi students were expected to be accommodated in Jordanian universities, leaving 16,000 the choice of foreign education or other careers.

Quoting ministry figures, Dr. Assad said 3,646 tawjihi graduates had obtained an average above 80 per cent this year. This percentage allows them to study

medicine or engineering in local and foreign universities.

In reply to a question, the minister denied that the measure was designed to serve the commercial interests of community colleges in the country. On the contrary, he said, the ministry has raised the requirement for admission in community colleges from a tawjihi average of 50 to 60 per cent.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Mr. Perez de Cuellar "has demonstrated good intentions towards peace in the region and has made positive proposals toward that end, including an eight-point plan for stabilising security in the Gulf region."

Iraq continues air attacks

(Continued from page 1)

body for failing to condemn Iraq as the "aggressor" in the July 26 resolution adopted by the Security Council.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Mr. Perez de Cuellar "has demonstrated good intentions towards peace in the region and has made positive proposals toward that end, including an eight-point plan for stabilising security in the Gulf region."

'U.S. knew of Israel-Iran deal in '81'

(Continued from page 1)

on Israel's role, while citing leading Israel critic, Senator James McClure who argued the committee was protecting Israel at the expense of developing a complete account.

The Post report, which gives an overview of Israel-Iran relations,

says that former foreign ministry director-general David Kimche served as Mossad station chief in Tehran and Israeli arms dealer Ya'acov Nimrodi was the Israeli military attaché, and helped train Iran's military intelligence corps during the time of the Shah — The Jerusalem Post.

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordinary issue No. 349

Drawing of: August 17, 1987

Winning Tickets

Holder of ticket No. **09155**
Wins JD 20,000

Holder of ticket No. **48012**
Wins JD 5,000

Holder of ticket No. **25317**
Wins JD 2,500

Holder of ticket No. **03694**
Wins JD 2,000

Holder of ticket No. **34919**
Wins JD 1,000

Holder of ticket No. **33932**
Wins JD 1,000

Holder of ticket No. **51825**
Wins JD 800

Holder of ticket No. **44769**
Wins JD 600

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 800 each wins JD 80
09156 09165 09255 00155 19155
09154 09145 09055 08155 59155

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 400 each wins JD 40
48013 48022 48112 49012 58012
48011 48002 48912 47012 38012

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 200 each wins JD 20
25318 25327 25417 26317 35317
25316 25307 25217 24317 15317

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 100 each wins JD 10
03695 03604 03794 04694 13694
03693 03684 03594 02694 53694

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 80 each wins JD 8
34910 34929 34019 35919 44919
34918 34909 34819 33919 24919

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 60 each wins JD 6
33933 33942 33032 34932 43932
33931 33922 33832 32932 23932

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 40 each wins JD 4
51826 51835 51925 52825 01825
51824 51815 51725 50825 41825

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 20 each wins JD 2
44760 44779 44869 45769 54769
44768 44759 44669 43769 34769

Ticket numbers **36680 07023 35801 54923** win JD 200 each
Ticket numbers **48359 29243 17023** win JD 100 each

TICKETS ENDING WITH

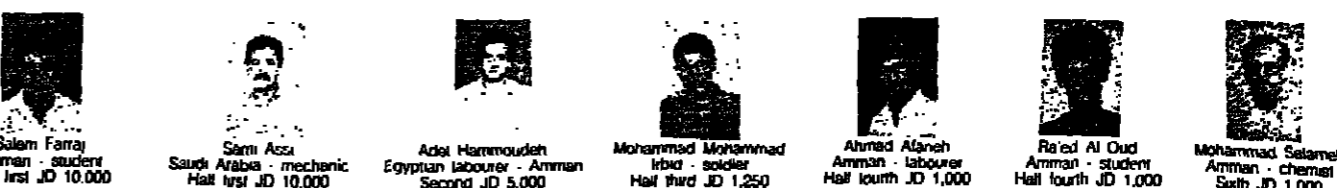
5737 0183 6036 8848 6118 Win JD 20 each **0854 0584 7898 8656 4039** Win JD 10 each
236 278 679 734 572 Win JD 5 each

6000 tickets ending with **2** Win JD 2 each.

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Next Drawing takes place on September 2, 1987

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Jordan Times

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Closing ranks

FOR ALL appearances, Iran has dramatically raised the stakes in the Gulf war by planting mines in some of the most sensitive and crowded areas of the strategic waterway and by issuing open threats that it could "sow mines like seeds" in the region's waters. With Saturday's mine explosion which blew an unsuspecting supply boat to bits off the coast of the United Arab Emirates, world attention is now focused on which unfortunate vessel will be the next victim in Iran's vicious game and what the U.S., Western Europe and the Soviet Union — all with declared commitments to protect the freedom of navigation in the Gulf — will do to avert the threat. In the bargain, the real issue at the heart of the region's problem — that of finding a peaceful settlement to the almost seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war — seems to be often overlooked. That appears to be precisely the Iranian goal. By diverting international attention from the actual Iran-Iraq conflict to the hazards of navigation in the Gulf, Iran is trying to preempt any serious U.N. move to implement Security Council Resolution 598 calling for an immediate ceasefire and peaceful negotiations to end the war. Tehran may think it has no interest whatsoever in heeding the U.N. call, or responding positively to any other effort at mediating the conflict, for the simple reason that the fanatic Iranian regime would only be inviting domestic turmoil and uprising against religious oppression and economic hardships at home. By the same token, the repeated Iranian threats, war cries and pledges to continue fighting until victory should also be seen as aimed at internal consumption in Iran as a diversionary tactic to keep the fanatics firmly in power in Tehran.

The net result of all this is a rising feeling of despair in the Arab World. The only light at the end of the tunnel seems to be the scheduled meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Tunis on Aug. 23. However, judging from our past experiences, one tends to be sceptical about the outcome of the meeting unless it is followed by a wider gathering of Arab leaders of the highest level. The gravity of the situation in the Gulf which leaves the region wide open for superpower meddling, and the Arab desire for peace in the Gulf warrant an Arab summit. Never before has the Arab situation been so grave or the dangers confronting the Arab World been so clear; the only answer lies in unambiguous Arab action with a united voice and strategy. It is time for the all Arab states to realise the gravity of the threat posed by the regime in Tehran and close their ranks against Iran. It is time for the Arab World to bury its differences and take decisive actions to counter the present danger. Any hesitation on the part of any Arab states could prove disastrous for all Arab states.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Administration — a case for reform

A four-day seminar on the role of higher administrative officials in promoting public administration service in the country opened in Amman Sunday. Its aim is to develop government agencies and various departments in such a manner as to offer better service to the public. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, who opened the seminar, expressed the government's keenness on achieving this end and referred to the work of the Royal Commission for Administrative Reform in this respect. The prime minister pointed to the importance of job description for defining the work of the head of an administrative department and underlined the need for the head of department to dedicate his time and effort for promoting the work of his department in a practical manner and in the service of public interest. Mr. Rifai urged the heads of departments taking part in the seminar to introduce measures by which the work of their offices will be made easier and simpler without infringing on regulations and laws. He said a government office should be able to have easy contacts with other institutions and also with the local community and that the head of the department should be a creative element and serve as an example for his staff. Mr. Rifai urged the participants who represent various government departments to take extra care in protecting and developing public funds, a tendency that reflects a person's sense of national belonging. Mr. Rifai expressed hope that the seminar would yield fruitful results and help towards the success of the Kingdom's national development plans.

Al Dustour: Integrated effort

PRIME Minister Zaid Rifai Sunday presented facts about the country's needs and the principles it relies on to achieve development in all fields. Mr. Rifai, who addressed heads of various government departments and key figures in public administration, stressed that administrative development means an integrated effort on the part of all concerned with the purpose of raising the standard of performance and for the sake of coping with modern trends in public administration and the management of government business. The four-day seminar, which the prime minister opened Sunday, can be considered as complementary to the work initiated by the Royal Commission for Administrative Reform. This commission had earlier conducted a comprehensive study of the civil service system in the country and submitted proposals for its development and its modernisation. In his address before the participants in the seminar, Mr. Rifai put forward a number of points on which he said this seminar was expected to dwell and to reach results. These results would lead to laying down a programme for conducting a process of measurement and assessment of the state's financial and human resources prior to introducing reform.

Sawt Al Shaab: Continuous process

PRIME Minister Zaid Rifai opened a seminar on higher administration in Amman on Sunday attended by heads of government departments and government institutions. The seminar paves the way for the introduction of reform and modern methods and techniques designed to promote government business at all levels. In his address, the prime minister tackled a number of questions to which, he said, heads of different departments must give priority. The topics which Mr. Rifai tackled at the meeting emerged after detailed studies and surveys and after the government received several proposals. Administrative development is an integrated process designed to raise the standard of efficiency of government departments and ministries making them capable of coping with the needs of the social and economic development of Jordan. Government departments should be developed to handle the needs in the country and development is a continuous process which requires modernisation all the time.

The View from Second Circle

Freedom and education always triumph

By Rami G. Khouri

OLIVER North and Nasreddin Al Assad would not, at first thought, appear to have very much in common, besides a natural dignity and an impressive demeanor that is part of the reason they have both impacted upon their respective societies in a manner that has caused quite a stir. Oliver North's secret operations vis-a-vis Iran, the American hostages and the contras in Nicaragua have raised serious questions about the relationship of the executive and legislative branches of government in the United States.

Nasreddin Al Assad, the Jordanian minister of higher education, lacks North's dramatic edge — but his ministry's recent decision on not recognising some university degrees earned abroad by Jordanians raises the same sorts of questions about relationships among public powers and the public itself in Jordan.

The Ministry of Higher Education decreed recently that it would not recognise the degree of Jordanians who went to foreign universities if they had not achieved a high enough result on the secondary school tawjihi examination to permit them to follow the same course of study in Jordan. The issue has raised quite a fuss in the country, and people have put forward assorted arguments for and against the decision. I am against it, but for reasons of principle and philosophy more than for practical matters related to whether or not the government should discourage university students in order that we might have more Jordanian plumbers, street cleaners and waiters.

Essentially, I think it is presumptuous and wrong for the government to assume that it has the ability to decide what is good and what is not good for young Jordanians, and then to act on the basis of swift, unilateral decrees.

The problems the government wishes to resolve are real, and need resolving. We have too many university graduates without jobs. We have too many students in foreign universities of poor academic stature. We have too many university graduates who are barely able to pass secondary school examinations in more

advanced countries. And we have too many graduates with specialisations they cannot easily apply to job opportunities in Jordan.

But the answer is not to resort to emphasising one's grade on the tawjihi examination, nor to discourage students from going to foreign universities.

Despite the erratic quality of education some students receive abroad, I find it hard to believe that our government seriously thinks that we solve our problems by educating our people less. We have to maintain faith in the free market system and the principle of personal freedom of choice which have served the development of Jordan well during the past six and a half decades of statehood. Unemployed graduates will work as taxi drivers and waiters if they have no other choice, and it strikes me as a good thing to have university educated workers in more fields of the economy. There is need for more university graduates in the police force, tourism and transport, the civil service and social services, to mention only some sectors that come to mind.

To consciously classify people and compartmentalise society into those who should or should not study abroad, or should or should not go to university, is to veer towards a Big Brother mentality that is frightening, and more suited to totalitarian states than to our own country.

There is a role for the government in tackling some of the problems of unemployment and a mismatch between labour supply and demand. The first is to concentrate public sector resources on a national guidance and career counselling system, which would give high school students the information they need in order to be able, with their parents, to make rational decisions about their future education and work plans.

Another is to allow the establishment of private universities, and to concentrate the government's role on assuring minimum

standards of quality, rather than on providing the education itself. The example of primary and secondary schools in Amman is instructive: they provide a better quality education than the government schools, they generate jobs, and they keep students in the country. Private universities should have the incentive to serve their students better, both in instructing them and in guiding them towards appropriate careers.

Yet another is to improve the quality of vocational training programmes, so that graduates are sought after and paid well. And to the most important thing the government can do, perhaps, is to accept the fact that if we want to maintain the right to work in other Arab countries and send back over JD 400 million a year in remittances, we have to keep our labour market open and thereby live with an inflow of cheaper labour to fill unskilled jobs.

The government should not be expected to have all the answers to any country's problems or challenges; but when a government feels the need to act it should do so only after a process of meaningful consultation with the people it seeks to serve. We will meet our challenges as a country, and as a broader Arab nation, when we accept the fact that free and educated people always triumph, while those whose education is restricted and personal freedoms curtailed inevitably end up in a perpetual cycle of mediocrity, disinterest and lassitude.

I would have thought that what we needed today to confront our enormous challenges are more people who have been taught to think for themselves, to be creative, to be original and to be dynamic. The challenge which the Ministry of Higher Education should face up to is this: improve Jordanian universities, and turn out thousands of graduates who could, in turn, improve secondary school education, and civic consciousness, and the many other things which we seek to improve by using our minds more, rather than less.

New phase in Jewish politics in the US: Can it herald a turn for Mideast peace?

By Maxim Ghilan

DURING the first 40 years of Israel's existence, American Jewry has been both the greatest ally for the Israelis and the greatest obstacle to the growth of true Israeli democracy. Unconditional approval of all Israeli political decisions, including wars, and a complicated network of mutual advantages and inter-relationships have gradually altered the character of the largest Jewish diaspora community from a source of strength to a source of funds and self-justification.

Statistically, there are about six million American Jews. In effect, about three million, or half, have integrated fully into the American nation and have stopped dealing with Jewish and Israeli affairs. American-Jewish leaders estimate that only about three million are still, for all practical purposes, national Jews, and that of those, just about 5,000 are active on a full-time basis in public Jewish and Zionist affairs.

Thanks to arrangements made in the framework of the so-called United Jewish Appeal, all monies collected from American Jews get pooled together: two-thirds is then channelled to Israeli and Zionist funds and one-third to the "federations," that is, to local community activities. This means that American Jews cannot withhold part of their donation in order to criticise or protest Israeli and Zionist organisation of American policies. Should they do so, they would penalise their own community charities and suffer the opprobrium of fellow Jewish notables. The only way of reacting is therefore political by creating groups and political action movements.

Under these circumstances, it is not surprising that Zionist and Jewish affairs intermingled and became identical in the minds of most American Jews. In fact, most local Jewish activities are also active in Zionist affairs and praised as such in and by Israel.

It took 30 years or so for an independent grass-roots organisation to appear, which criticised — very mildly and carefully — both Israel and the American Jewish establishment. That organisation, Breira ("Alternative"), created in 1973, was strategically torpedoed several years later by right-wing and middle-of-the-road Jewish forces in the U.S.

After Breira, the next step in the disengagement of a Jewish fringe from the almost cannibalistic political relationship that exists between Israel and the American diaspora was the holding of a conference for a new Jewish agenda, in December 1980 in Washington, D.C. The conference, attended by about 700 people, criticised Breira's experience and came to the conclusion that what was needed was not a group dealing exclusively with Israeli-Middle East problems, i.e. not a single-issue group, but rather a multi-issue movement confronting such problems as feminism, gay rights, social issues, the relationship between Jews and Blacks or Hispanics in the United States, as well as nuclear disarmament and U.S. foreign and domestic policy.

In short, what was created in 1980 was a progressive Jewish grass-roots organisation, Jews in the U.S. have, of course, a long-standing liberal and left-wing tradition; even the third-generation move rightwards of a considerable segment of the Jewish American community has failed to eliminate very powerful left-of-



centre influences. In mainstream politics, for example, most Jews have traditionally voted for the Democratic ticket.

As for the more marginal (that is, radical) America scene, affluent Jews funded and helped about every conceivable progressive cause; refraining only, until the early 1980s, from funding and supporting Israeli and Jewish non-Zionist and anti-Occupation activities.

Thus, upon new Jewish agenda's creation, there was, here too, an overwhelming majority inside the new progressive group that refused to become involved in real criticism of Israel and in support of the real non-Zionist Jewish opposition.

Change during Lebanon war

All this changed after Sharon ordered Israeli troops to invade Lebanon in June 1982. Soon after, new Jewish agenda placed an ad in The New York Times, signed by 600 personalities, including 40 rabbis, protesting the Israeli invasion.

Still, when in November 1982 the Agenda adopted its first national platform, clearly missing among the 18 plans were recognition of the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinians as well as acceptance of the "two-states" solution. At about that time, the far smaller yet more consistent USA chapters of the IJPU (International Jewish Peace Union) started lobbying consistently for the NJA to move in this direction: a decision being taken at that time inside the IJPU that dual membership in both Agenda and IJPU was permissible for IJPU activists.

It was also decided to encourage, even help, agenda activities in the hope of educating the right-wing fringe of agenda to more positive views, through actual joint action.

But this was only a small part of the developments that pushed agenda in the right direction. The disgusting and almost total support of most major Jewish organisations for the Lebanon war and for Sharon and Begin evoked anger and determination among agenda members to present American Jewry with a real alternative. It must be remembered that those were the days when American Jewish Congress

and other federation leaders were being flown by Sharon in helicopters over the occupied West Bank and toured through southern Lebanon; and in which the World Jewish Congress, once the liberal creation of the late Dr. Nahum Goldmann, decided to allocate almost half of its executive seats to members of the Zionist organisation, thus eliminating itself from the role of major representative of all non-Zionist as well as Zionist diaspora Jews.

In June 1983, NJA sponsored a 15-city tour in the U.S. of Dava Rubenstein (and Zionist dove) Danny Rubenstein, who has covered the West Bank critically since 1967. In August 1983, NJA sent its first "peace tour" to Israel and the West Bank. In November of that year, agenda went one step further by calling for a freeze of Jewish settlement on the West Bank.

In April 1984, agenda sponsored a tour of 20 cities by Halhoul's deposed and expelled Mayor, Mohammad Milhem (later to become a PLO Executive member) and by Citizens' Rights Movement Knesset Member and former Israeli army chief educational officer Mordechai ("Moraleh") Bar-On. Simultaneously, in June NJA sponsored the first "Jewish Perspectives on Economic Justice" conference. And in August 1984, NJA sponsored a 10-member Jewish fact-finding mission to Nicaragua, headed by two rabbis, to investigate the Anti-Defamation League's charges of anti-Semitism there, and concluded that the Sandinista government in fact did not discriminate against Jews.

Middle East changes

Concerning the Middle East, the pace was set by three presentations: one by Hurwitz on the Algiers PNC; another by Philadelphia Agenda branch's Hilda Silverstein on the fact-finding trip to Tunis and meetings with Arafat and Abu Mazen; and a third by Maxim Ghilan on the contacts held between Israelis and Palestinians, Jews and Arabs.

An outstanding role in the change of mind of the more right-wing fringes of agenda was played by several presentations by Harvard scholar and former member of Arafat's personal Cabinet, Afif Safieh, who virtually charmed the audience with his analysis and conquered them by concluding his last presentation with the words: "With enemies such as these (agenda members), who needs friends?"

Yet, opposition to change persisted and, in particular, the trips

to Tunis and Algiers were criticised, although they certainly had been decided upon according to the elaborate strictures of NJA rules.

Upon the closing day of the conference, however, when it came to a vote concerning the resolutions elaborated by the co-chairs and various task forces, it was obvious that a small revolution had occurred in the minds of this audience. The meeting voted — 198 for, 3 against, and 9 abstentions — in favour of a strategy paper that:

— Demands mutual recognition of national Israeli and Palestinian rights;

— Explicitly mentions the two-states solution as the way to self-determination;

— Supports the participation of the PLO in the peace process as the "internationally recognised representative of the Palestinian people";

— Supports an international peace conference "under U.N. auspices, with the participation of Israel and the PLO, on an equal basis, and the U.S. and USSR"; and

— Supports the right to religious freedom in Israel for both Jews and non-Jews.

Peace contacts and ...

Vanunu

In separate resolutions, the NJA voted for cooperation and work with peace activists, Jewish and Arab, in order to build a Mideast peace movement in the U.S.; decided to work with all sectors of the Israeli peace camp; to participate in the international network of United Nations NGOs on the Question of Palestine, both on the North American and international levels; and to support Israelis facing criminal charges for having held peaceful meetings with representatives of the PLO.

(The NGO resolution was significant, since just a month ago agenda had decided not to participate in the Coordination Committee of North American NGOs dealing with the Question of Palestine. North American IJPU heads, who had pressed the agenda members to participate, were elected instead to the North American NGO committee; the IJPU will now be represented there by Dr. Jonathan Boyarin.

Indeed, at the NJA conference, the IJPU, through Maxim Ghilan, offered to transmit and support agenda's observations, proposals and concerns both before the international and North American NGO bodies).

Agenda went on to support the campaign against the deportation of seven Palestinians and one Kenyan from Los Angeles; opposed proposed national legislation aimed at closing the PLO's office in the U.S.; sharply condemned Israeli policy in the occupied territories; and, most surprisingly, adopted — 144 to 3, with only 3 abstentions — a resolution expressing concern over violations of Mordechai Vanunu's civil rights and deploring the condition of his solitary confinement. The resolution asked Israel to provide Vanunu with a fair trial.

There was no doubt at all that agenda has now taken a fateful step, making it the United States' most powerful liberal Jewish organisation. In fact, on Middle East matters, agenda now possesses a platform that is practically identical with that adopted in 1982 by the IJPU — then accused by many liberal and left-wing Jews of "going too far."

Moreover, it was also clear that this has not happened in a vacuum; that this left-wing edge of American Jewish politics is part of a more vast — but slower — movement in the appropriate direction.

One should not go from one extreme to another and euphorically hope for a sea-change in American Jewish politics. But it can be said that a new period has begun, one in which all liberal and radical Jews can help change the face of Jewish politics, where further and greater cooperation among a variety of Jewish progressive forces is possible; and finally one in which the Jewish-Palestinian dialogue shall become a feature accompanying longstanding Israeli-Palestinian contacts.

It must also be stated that a backlash inside American and Zionist Jewry is now probable. But this, too, will only enhance the discussion and, through open confrontation, bring the struggle into the camp of the opponent — Israel and Palestine Political Report.

Extended excavations confirm Aqaba's past as a flourishing port

This is the first part of a two-part article

Text and photos by Rami G. Khouri

Special to the Jordan Times

AFTER an initial exploratory season last year sunk a few deep probes that confirmed the remains of a medieval Arab town at Aqaba, an extensive season of excavation earlier this year has unearthed substantial and extensive remains of a walled town that existed along the Red Sea shoreline for some 500 years. The Aqaba dig, administered jointly by the University of Chicago and the Jordanian Department of Antiquities, was headed by Dr. Donald Whitcomb of the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute.

He told the Jordan Times in an interview here recently that this year's work has confirmed the broad historical outline of the site: a walled town which existed from the very early Islamic period in the first half of the seventh century, and seems to have ended its organised urban life in the early 12th century, perhaps as a result of being sacked by the Crusaders. In between, ancient Aqaba, or Ayla, flourished for several centuries as a dynamic trading port which was in contact with Iraq, Egypt, Syria, Yemen and China.

Besides the value of locating the ancient town and learning about its history, probably the most important discovery we have made," Dr. Whitcomb said, "was the widespread trading network which Aqaba was a part of."

The town, according to the archaeological and architectural evidence, seems to have enjoyed its period of maximum prosperity in the Abbasid era (750-909 A.D.), though it continued to exist, albeit at a more modest level, during the Fatimid period (909-1171 A.D.). These periods are not very well represented throughout the rest of the land of modern Jordan: architectural and archaeological remains suggest that the Abbasid and Fatimid periods in central and north Jordan were characterised by small-scale, locally-oriented settlements of modest farmers and villagers, lacking both substantial urbanism and large-scale regional or international trade. In the preceding (Umayyad) and succeeding (Ayyubid/Mamluke) eras, most of Jordan flourished, with extensive urbanism, sophisticated, widespread agriculture and much regional and international trade.

Therefore, the new picture of Aqaba as a flourishing port city during the Abbasid/Fatimid era, when the rest of the land of Jordan was passing through a period of relative stagnation, promises to shed considerable new light on local and regional history in the Medieval Islamic centuries.

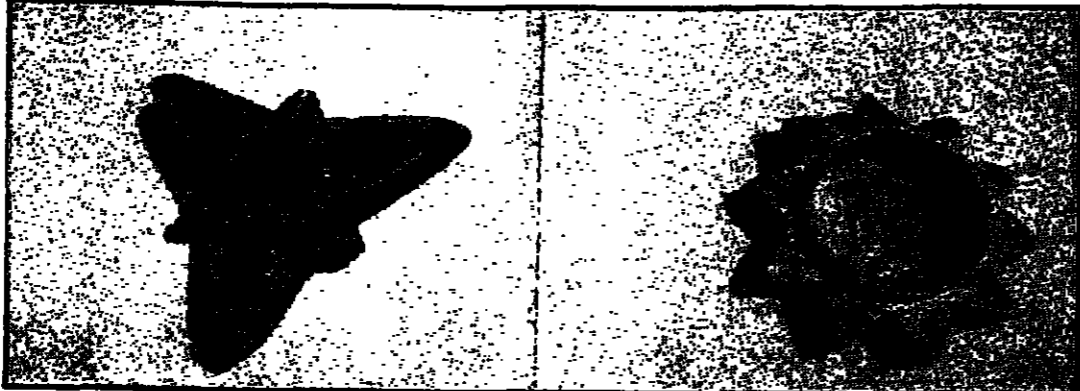
Visitors to the site, in an open sandy lot along the beachfront across the street from the Miramar Hotel and the JETT bus station in Aqaba, will be struck first by the towers and the extensive city walls. By the end of the season, over 80 metres of city walls were cleared, including four towers and the town's main entrance gate. The layout of the walls and several internal streets suggest that ancient Ayla measured around 160 by 120 metres.

The city gate was excavated to a depth of 4.5 metres, but its street level and foundations were not reached as the excavators had to stop digging because their trenches were filling up with fresh water from the underground water table. The availability of good sweet water so close to the surface of the earth was one reason why Aqaba was inhabited so many times in antiquity. The city gate was rebuilt several times, each time becoming smaller and more flimsy; thus, it encapsulates the history of the town itself, which gradually declined over time.

The towers were entered from



The two towers flanking the main gate



Multi-sprouted steatite stone lamps, indicating trade links with the area of Yemen

inside the city walls via a door through the city wall, and appear to be divided into small store rooms. They have no arrow slits and appear to have served more a decorative than a defensive function. One theory Dr. Whitcomb is exploring is that the early Islamic builders of the first town at Aqaba simply copied the towered walls that were so common in this area during the Byzantine period.

The earliest history of the excavated town is particularly important, though still not fully pieced together. There are many late Byzantine artifacts (pottery, glass and stone pieces) from the earliest levels of Ayla, from around the start of the seventh century A.D., or perhaps the very end of the sixth century; though Dr. Whitcomb doubts there was a late Byzantine town established at this time, due to the precarious security situation in the area when the Byzantine empire was in a rather unstable condition. It is more likely that a Byzantine town already existed somewhere nearby, and the site now being excavated was established by the young Islamic forces sometime during the period 630-660 A.D.

We know from historical sources that in 630 A.D. the Prophet Mohammed signed a treaty with the Bishop of Aqaba, who had travelled to Tabuk (now in northern Saudi Arabia) to sign the accord, which allowed the nascent Muslim forces to pass through Aqaba. There was probably a Muslim presence at Aqaba as of 630 A.D., and Dr. Whitcomb feels the first walled settlement started as a fortified military camp, or *misr* (plural: *amsar*). This would have been a particularly strategic *misr* for the young Muslim armies as they planned

their probes and attacks against the Byzantine forces in what is now north Jordan and Palestine. Other notable *amsar* were established at Basra, Ramallah and Fustat (Cairo).

If this is so, then the earliest levels being excavated at Aqaba would be pre-Umayyad, and therefore among the earliest Muslim towns anywhere in the world. The *misr* would have started as a small walled camp for Muslims only, adjacent to an existing Byzantine settlement. These *amsar* later developed into proper walled towns in the Umayyad era, and are therefore particularly valuable for studying the earliest stages of what can be termed "Muslim urbanisation", which had its roots in the towns of Arabia, such as Mecca. The *amsar* provide valuable information about how Muslim urbanisation developed outside Arabia, and the Aqaba site may include rare details of Islam's earliest mosques, markets and public buildings. Aqaba is also important for showing the links between the earliest Muslim towns and their Byzantine predecessors outside Arabia.

The peculiar towers at Aqaba may be one such link, and others should certainly emerge as the dig continues in future years. The site has produced a few Nabataean and Roman pottery sherds, but no associated architecture, which suggests to Dr. Whitcomb and his colleagues that the Nabataean-Roman-Byzantine town at Ayla must be located near, but not on the site being excavated. Dr. Whitcomb surveyed the area around the site and came upon what he feels is probably the site of the Nabataean-Roman-Byzantine town, several hundred

metres to the north-west of the site. The earlier settlement is suggested by wall lines sticking out of the earth, and much pre-Umayyad pottery and glass on the ground.

The Muslim town reached the peak of its prosperity in the ninth to 11th centuries A.D., during the Abbasid era, when it traded regularly with Iraq, Yemen, Egypt and China. Chinese celadon and porcelain vessels on the site have been independently dated from the 10th and 11th centuries A.D., and fit perfectly into the local chronology pieced together by the excavations on the basis of the medieval Islamic pottery that is well attested in the Middle East. Among the Chinese wares was a large storage jar standing over a metre high. Wares from Egypt and Iraq included many pieces of imported fine Fatimid and Abbasid lustre wares, while locally produced pottery included hand-made and painted vessels, which stylistically anticipated the geometric painted pottery which developed during the Ayyubid/Mamluke periods.

The site has also produced much fine Abbasid period glass, and some terracotta, or small squarish cut stones used to make mosaics. Metalwork finds included many small pieces of metal, such as a chancel screen (from a Byzantine church) and fragments of a Latin inscription. Basalt pipes and mortars and grinders were also found, as well as decorated stone lamps and incense burners, and steatite cooking pots thought to have come from the area of Yemen.

By the 11th century, however, Ayla started to deteriorate and finally to collapse. Excavations indicate poorer quality artifacts, with more handmade pottery in the Fatimid period. The end of the town may have come when the Crusader King Baldwin of Jerusalem attacked Ayla in 1116 and occupied the site for 55 years, before his forces were defeated by Saladin (Saladin) in 1171.

Crusader historical sources indicate that the Arab inhabitants of the town fled when Baldwin attacked, and he pursued them by land to Pharaoh's Island (Jezret Pharaon), which is just off the Egyptian Sinai coast south of Aqaba. The Crusaders probably built the existing fort at Jezret Pharaon, and Dr. Whitcomb believes they built the first fort at Aqaba, which was rebuilt in later centuries to leave the standing fort we now see along the east coast of the Gulf of Aqaba.

One question which remains to be answered is: why was the medieval Muslim town abandoned? It seems to have been on its last legs when the Crusaders attacked, having suffered from earthquakes in the early 11th century, as well as a series of local revolts against the Fatimid rulers. The poorer quality artifacts (such as crude, hand-made pottery instead of wheel-made pieces) suggest a decline in the inhabitants' prosperity and standard of living. So does the archaeological evidence of *tawabeen*, or bread ovens, located during the Fatimid period in an area that was a prosperous part of the town centre in the preceding Abbasid era. Also, the Fatimid era saw more use of mudbrick for building, rather than stone, while construction techniques deteriorated badly and many walls were rebuilt several times.

Kuwaitis are turning away from the sea

By John Rice
The Associated Press

KUWAIT — The sails of a merchant ship are the emblem of this little seaside country, which grew up around a natural harbour as a centre of trading, fishing and pearl diving.

But after 40 years of oil wealth, life at sea holds little allure for the heirs of Kuwait's legendary sailors.

"That black gold turned things upside down," says Khalid Shaheen Alghamim, a veteran sailor. The son and grandson of seafaring men, he went to sea at the age of 15 in 1929, some 20 years before the oil boom began.

Kuwaitis still own fleets of great ships. The 11 government-owned tankers which eventually will be guarded by the U.S. navy on voyages up the Gulf are half of the largest tanker fleet in the Arab World.

But few of the men aboard those ships — or other Kuwaiti vessels — are Kuwaitis.

Not a single Kuwaiti works aboard any of the 17 trawlers owned by the state-owned United Fisheries of Kuwait, either as captain or crewman, said Faisal M. Al Shatti, the company's assistant managing director.

Offices of the state-owned Kuwait Oil Tanker Co., which runs the U.S.-protected tankers are filled with veteran British sea captains.

Indians and Egyptians dominate the offices of private shipping agencies.

Kuwait's 400 commercial fishing boat owners hire their crews from Egypt and India, although some still accompany their boats out to sea.

"When the oil is completely finished, the young Kuwaitis will starve," complained Alghamim.

With an estimated 200 years of oil left in the ground, few Kuwaitis worry about their next meal. But most maintain a love for the sea — more as a place for recreation than as a source of livelihood.

"All the Kuwaitis are fishermen," said Shatti. Many own boats for sport fishing.

He said Kuwaitis "look at it (the sea) as a source of food. It's very essential to Kuwait."

But he said fishing "is a very hard job. Our parents and grandparents had to suffer a lot."

After the discovery of oil, people switched to oil-related jobs because the work was easier and the money was far better, said Bader Nasser, a Kuwaiti fishing boat owner.

Most Kuwaitis think they've suffered enough from the hard life at sea, Nasser said. "Most of the big families lost boats to the sea. They lost their men."

Kuwait's port was a centre for the British East India Company in the late 18th century, briefly eclipsing Basra in southern Iraq. Pearl divers once brought wealth to the country, making as many as 120 dives a day as deep as 20 metres without oxygen tanks to oyster banks along the Kuwaiti and Saudi coasts.

But artificial pearls and easier money stopped the industry, which reportedly employed more than 10,000 men working from 800 boats at the turn of this century.

Nasser said he started as a sport fisherman who learned the fishing grounds of the northern Gulf and went into business to profit from his knowledge. He employs Indians and Egyptians to tend his fish traps and nets.

Foreign shipping workers, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they had great difficulty finding Kuwaitis willing to undertake long voyages aboard merchant vessels.

Those that did, they said, often request transfer to shore duty as soon as they are married.

"When we used to sail, we needed about 10 months away from our wives and children," Alghamim said. "We didn't take care for our wives and children. We took more care of our ships, cleaning and repairing them."

Living with Arctic wolves could be real fun

National Geographic

WASHINGTON — L. David Mech flopped on his belly on an iceberg and whined as loud as he could, trying to attract the attention of a nearby pack of white arctic wolves.

"With my heavily insulated wind suit, face mask, and sunglasses, I'm not sure I really resembled a seal," he wrote in the May National Geographic. "But one of the inquisitive wolves approached within 150 feet, and that was thrill enough for me."

Mech is a wolf biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. His regular job is studying wolves in Minnesota, where he has radio-tagged hundreds of them and observed them from the air since 1968.

Wild pack

But until last year, neither he nor anyone else he knows of had an opportunity to live with a wild pack and get a feel for the way it functions. It was "the highlight of a lifetime," Mech writes.

He and fellow Minnesota Jim Brandenburg, a veteran wolf photographer, found the wolves on Nebraska-size Ellesmere Island, near Greenland, hundreds of miles north of Hudson Bay, more than 1,000 miles from the nearest city.

Their contacts were made easier by the wolves' relatively small fear of people, presumably because the wolves haven't been harassed by hunters. In the barren polar regions of the high Arctic, game is so scarce and conditions are so severe — darkness cloaks land and sea for almost four months of the year — that even the Inuit seldom hunt the inland areas.

During their two visits to Ellesmere, in spring and summer, Mech and Brandenburg used every means they could think of to win the wolves' acceptance. Whenever they seemed to gain a degree of it, they tried to prolong the interaction, seeking to reinforce the wolves' developing trust.

After several days and nights, the wolves began to take the men for granted. But real acceptance didn't come until the second visit, when the pack had grown so indifferent to Mech and Brandenburg that they left their pups outside their new den with no adults on guard.

Seizing the opportunity to get even closer to the wolves, the men moved their tent within a



quartermile of the den. This posed some logistical problems. "Wolves are relentless raiders, so we had to cache all our food in a rock pile away from the tent," Mech writes. "When we were in residence at camp, we had little trouble keeping these sociable wolves at bay by simulating their doglike barking."

To ward off wolves when they were away from camp, Mech and Brandenburg built tall rock cairns near the tent and flew plastic streamers from them.

"Despite these precautions," Mech writes, "when we were away visiting the wolves at the den, their hunting parties, passing our camp, stopped off to chew the side of my backpack and strew our toilet tissue over the tundra. They urinated on our rock piles."

Once, from his lookout above the den, Mech watched four wolves attack the tent. After a few minutes of tugging and yanking, one of them pulled out his sleeping bag. It took a loud, sharp hoot from him to drive the marauders away.

Before long, the men identified all the adult pack members individually and gave them names based on their sex and appearance, such as Scruffy, Mom, Shaggy, and the Lone Ranger. The pack leader was called simply the alpha male.

As time went on, Mech and Brandenburg learned a great deal about the lives of the wolves. They confirmed that there is a social order, and it is the higher-ranking animals that breed. Offspring may stay with the pack four years or longer.

The pack's routine resembles that of wolves anywhere: sleep, bouts of play and social interaction, a daily hunt by most adults, and feeding the pups whenever possible.

In play fighting, the pups test and hone their competitive skills. "Although pack functioning seems a model of cooperation, especially during the tranquil summer period, the basic selfish, aggressive spirit of every living thing lurks constantly beneath," Mech writes.

At no time is this more evident than when the wolves make a kill. Mech and Brandenburg had the

extraordinary opportunity to witness and photograph the pack's killing of three musk-ox calves. After the kill, Mech writes, "Frenzy fell away from the wolves, and they became intent and businesslike. No greetings. No socialising. They reminded me of firemen springing into action to put out a fire."

Within two days, not a shred of hair or bone was left at the kills. "The pack had devoured or cached some 300 pounds of prey, and much of it was already transferred to the growing wolf pups," Mech writes. "For days the pack delivered food to the pups from the caches, and the pups grew and changed noticeably."

The white arctic wolf is one of about 17 subspecies of gray wolf that remain in North America. Amid persecution and loss of habitat, the wolf, once plentiful from coast to coast and south into Mexico, has made its stand in the north woods and Arctic tundra.

Canada has some 50,000 wolves. There are 4,000 to 6,000 in Alaska, 1,200 in Minnesota, and a few elsewhere in the United States.

for at least a century. Because of harsh conditions in the barren polar regions of the high Arctic, wolves seen few hunters and therefore show slight fear of people (photo by Jim Brandenburg, National Geographic)



The main gate, showing traces of earlier arch which was made smaller towards the end of the city's life



Excavating medieval Ayla's "pavilion building," which may have been a prominent person's home or a public building

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S.Korea accepts IOC latest compromise for 1988 Olympics

Seoul's approval is conditional on Pyongyang dropping demand to co-host games

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea notified the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Monday that it accepts the committee's latest proposal for allowing North Korea to stage some events of the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Kim Chong-Ha, president of the South Korean National Olympic Committee said he accepted the IOC proposal made at the fourth round of talks between sports officials of South and North Korea in Lausanne, Switzerland, July 14-16. Kim did not give further details.

Officials consider action after English soccer fan violence

LONDON (AP) — English soccer officials have said they were considering what action to take following fan violence that marred the opening day of the country's new league season.

Fifty-six people were arrested on public order and criminal damage offences before, during and after the English Fourth Division match on Saturday between Scarborough and Wolverhampton Wanderers.

The blame for the violence at Scarborough's first ever professional match — the Yorkshire Club joined the league this season — was directed firmly against Wolverhampton backers. Forty of those arrested were from the visiting team.

"We are determined to be seen to be taking action quickly when events like this occur," Football Association Secretary Ted Croker said Sunday. "We will consider any reasonable action to contain such hooligans."

Croker declined to spell out what punishment Wolverhampton might incur but football

condition that North Korea drop its demand to be a co-host of the Seoul Olympics and that it participate in the games unconditionally.

After the July meeting, IOC President Antonio Samaranch made what he called the IOC's final mediation proposal, letting North Korea stage women's volleyball, in addition to events

offered earlier — table tennis, archery, one preliminary round of soccer and a 100-kilometre cycling road race.

Samaranch asked both Koreas to respond to the proposal in writing, preferably before Sept. 17, one year before the start of the 1988 Olympics.

North Korea said last week it had sent a reply to the IOC reducing its demand that it be given eight sports of the 1988 Seoul Olympics, and would settle for five full sports and part of another.

North Korea insisted, however, that one of the full sports be the soccer tournament.

North Korea also demanded that a separate Olympic organising committee be set up under its control, that separate opening and closing ceremonies be held in its capital and that it be given a share of television revenue.

North Korea has made similar demands in the past, but Seoul turned them down, saying they ran counter to the IOC charter.

South Korea also has insisted that if events are staged in the North, the North Koreans must allow free cross-border travel by 30,000 to 40,000 "Olympic family members," including athletes, sports officials and journalists.

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1 injured, over 100 arrested in Dutch soccer hooliganism

EINDHOVEN, Netherlands (AP) — One soccer fan was injured and more than 100 were arrested Sunday on the first day of the new Dutch soccer season, police said.

In the aftermath of the Honour Division match between PSV Eindhoven and EC Den Bosch, Eindhoven supporters hurled stones at a train carrying fans of the visiting Den Bosch team, police spokesman Henk Achten said.

Achten said one Den Bosch supporter was injured. He said details of the injury were not known.

Eindhoven police arrested some 50 supporters of the home team, who were released later Sunday pending charges, Achten said.

PSV won its first match of the season 6-1.

In Tilburg, 25 kilometres west of Eindhoven, 69 supporters of visiting Feyenoord of Rotterdam were arrested before and after the match between Feyenoord and Tilburg's Willem II team.

Tilburg police spokesman Henk Boelens said that 62 of them were apprehended when they threw two escorting police officers from a bus that was taking them from the soccer stadium to the railway station. Seven others were arrested before the match after they had smashed the windshields of a number of parked cars.

No injuries were reported in the Tilburg violence, police said. Those arrested in Tilburg were released after several hours, Boelens said.

Feyenoord defeated Willem II 3-2.

Coors bike race leader has nearly insurmountable lead

ASPEN, Colorado (AP) — Race leader Jeff Pierce and his 7-Eleven teammates wanted to "intimidate and demoralize" their opposition in the Coors International Bicycle Classic when they hit the Colorado Line after stages in Hawaii and California.

With two sweeps in two Colorado races, Pierce has a nearly insurmountable lead in the individual standings and only a major accident will keep 7-Eleven from claiming the team title.

Monday's events included a 58-mile (92 km) road race from Aspen to Leadville for the women and a 107-mile (170 km) stage from Aspen to Copper Mountain over the 12,095-foot-high (3,690-metre-high) Independence Pass for the men.

Monday's events included a 58-mile (92 km) road race from Aspen to Leadville for the women and a 107-mile (170 km) stage from Aspen to Copper Mountain over the 12,095-foot-high (3,690-metre-high) Independence Pass for the men.

Monday's events included a 58-mile (92 km) road race from Aspen to Leadville for the women and a 107-mile (170 km) stage from Aspen to Copper Mountain over the 12,095-foot-high (3,690-metre-high) Independence Pass for the men.

Monday's events included a 58-mile (92 km) road race from Aspen to Leadville for the women and a 107-mile (170 km) stage from Aspen to Copper Mountain over the 12,095-foot-high (3,690-metre-high) Independence Pass for the men.

11-year-old returns to basics for soap box derby win

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — Eleven-year-old Matthew Margules and his dad tried the latest in gravity racer technology. But then they returned to basics and the result was a victory Sunday in the 50th All-American Soap Box Derby.

The boy said he didn't know how he managed to beat 88 other junior racers, ages 9 to 12, for the Derby's junior division championship. The competition features homemade cars that are powered only by gravity.

Dr. Richard Margules, a surgeon, said his son raced in soap box Derby competition for two years with fiberglass shell cars. Then, Margules said, "we decided that we had to build a wood car to be really competitive."

Earlier this year, they attended rallies and experimented with the car to make it faster.

"We didn't find our secret until our local race," Margules said. "It's just a basic soap box Derby car."

Matthew will receive an assortment of power tools, three round-trip air fares to any destination in the continental United States, a video camera, a clock and other prizes for his victory.

Brian Drinkwater, 14, won a \$5,000 college scholarship with his victory in the senior division. He guided his sleek racer down the sloping, 291-metre Derby downs track ahead of two others in the senior division's championship heat.

There were 79 youngsters competing in the senior division, with competitors ranging in age from 12 to 16.

The competition drew an estimated 15,000 spectators.



Graf... in top spot



Navratilova... the ousted queen



Evert... the victim

Graf ousts Evert in Virginia Slims to grab tennis players top spot

MANHATTAN BEACH, California (AP) — Steffi Graf of West Germany has reached the top of women's tennis a little earlier than she expected.

"I knew I had the ability, but not this soon," the 13-year-old Graf said Sunday after defeating Chris Evert 6-3, 6-4 in the finals of the \$250,000 Virginia Slims of Los Angeles Women's Tennis Tournament.

Evert, however, thought Graf's promotion was a little overdue.

"She's had the best year of anyone," Evert said. "She's now won eight tournaments. I'm surprised the computer took this long to recognize that."

"She'll stay number 1 as long as she wants to. She works hard. She's the best of all the new comers."

The only match Graf has lost this year was in the finals of Wimbledon to Navratilova. Still, her promotion took her by surprise.

"It feels great," Graf said of the top ranking. "My father said it was impossible. I had no idea. I was very surprised. Being number 1 means everything. I've had a good year. It's important to get to be number 1 before the U.S. Open. I can really relax."

Navratilova, who teamed with Pan Shriver to win the tournament's doubles title, declined to comment when asked about falling to number 2.

In Sunday's final, Graf and Evert traded breaks in four straight games beginning in the

second game of the first set. After Evert held service to pull even at 3-3, Graf then won the next three games.

In the ninth game, Evert dumped a service return into the net at deuce and then Graf took the game and the set with a forehand volley for a winner.

The two then traded breaks in the first two games of the second set and again in the seventh and eighth games, leaving the set even at 4-4.

Graf then broke Evert's serve and then held at love to take the match and the number 1 ranking.

Evert said, "I'm playing better now than when I was number 1... the standards just keep going up and up," she said.

U.S. athletes pile up medals in All America Games

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (AP) — U.S. gymnasts piled up the medals in all-around competition, and a Puerto Rican judge was removed for trying to influence scores against them.

Scott Johnson won six medals — two gold and four silver — and Tim Daggett, Johnson's teammate and a 1984 Olympic gold medalist, won the gold in the pommel horse Sunday. Another teammate,

Brian Ginsberg, shared a bronze medal in rings.

Double gold winner

Greg Louganis could have skipped his last round of platform diving on Sunday and still walked away with an unprecedented third successive double gold performance in diving at the games.

But the three-time winner of both the springboard and platform diving events made good use of his last dive to improve his games mark in the 10-metre platform with 694.68 points. The American had set the old record of 677.58 in 1983 at Caracas.

Nearly 100 points behind in second place was his compatriot Matt Scoggin at 596.94, while Canadian David Bedard was third with 546.33.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Ex-boxing champ makes motorsport debut

SILVERSTONE, England (AP) — Former world featherweight boxing champion Barry McGuigan's motorsport debut ended in a disappointment Sunday when a broken driveshaft forced him to retire in his MG Metro turbo on the eighth of the 10 laps in the Esso challenge seventh round. In qualifying, the Irishman had managed to set 17th fastest time from the ninth row of the grid. On the first lap of the race, experience told and McGuigan found himself relegated to 26th place of the 27 starters. But a hard charge upfield took him into eighth place. "I was up against seasoned professionals but was still able to pick them off one by one," McGuigan said. By the time of his retirement he had climbed into 14th place and was looking good.

Rebolledo wins Saint Vincent Grand Prix

SAINT VINCENT, Italy (R) — Pedro Rebolledo of Chile won the \$117,000 Saint Vincent Tennis Grand Prix on Sunday when he beat Francesco Cancellotti of Italy 7-6, 4-6, 6-3. "This is a major win for me because I have had surgery on my legs three times and I have been inactive for a long time altogether," Rebolledo said later. Unseeded, like Cancellotti, the Chilean was helped on his way to victory by the withdrawal with a knee injury of top seed Kent Carlsson of Sweden in the quarter-finals. Cancellotti, who had been due to play Carlsson before he pulled out, put up strong opposition initially and came near to winning the first set before Rebolledo clinched the tie-break.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Monday.

One Sterling	1.5885/95	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3295/3000	Canadian dollar
	1.8765/70	West German marks
	2.1155/65	Dutch guilders
	1.5565/75	Swiss francs
	38.96/99	Belgian francs
	6.2655/85	French francs
	1359/1360	Italian lira
	150.10/20	Japanese yen
	6.5325/75	Swedish crowns
	6.8375/8425	Norwegian crowns
	7.2100/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	454.60/455.10	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares drifted around the day's low in very light volume. Dealers said many market-makers were unwilling to open new positions ahead of Thursday's U.K. economic data.

Further cash calls on the market Monday morning hurt sentiment, as did disappointing second quarter results from Unilever. A larger than expected rise in U.K. retail sales during July deepened worries that demand might be outstripping British supply, drawing in imports and further fuelling inflation.

By 1415 GMT, the FTSE 100 index was 16.6 points lower at 2,278.5, the firm opening on Wall Street helping to drag the index above its low of 2,277.4.

Analysts say Thursday's U.K. money supply and bank lending data will be crucial for the short-term direction of the markets. Many expect another substantial jump in bank lending after June's unsettling £3.9 billion rise.

An increase of around £3 billion is forecast this time and such a rise could fuel worries that inflationary pressures within the economy are rising.

Some fear that the recent one point rise in U.K. base rates to 10 per cent may prove insufficient to brake the economy.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Don't be upset by anything unusual or dramatic which arises today. Although this matter appears problematic, there are some big opportunities in it.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You will communicate well today, with the exception of one situation which could be temporarily upsetting.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Try to find out what it is that your mate wants from you of a material nature and gain more affection and domestic bliss.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) One of your most dependable allies may seem to oppose you this evening, but don't let that distract your attention.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Your mate may consider some worldly matter to be an obstacle, but appearances can be deceptive.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Your mate tries to stop you from seeing a friend who he or she doesn't like, but great benefits can be gained by meeting anyway.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get busy on matters which have been drawing your attention, and don't let a situation at home distract you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Handle long-distance correspondence which you have been neglecting. Enjoy a tranquil evening of domesticity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Follow the advice of those who are in your line of business and have been in it much longer than you have.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Bring an idea to the attention of the person in power who seems the most logical one to make it work.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get your health and appearance improved so that you can accomplish more and avoid delays in the future.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You may have to postpone seeing a good friend until you have taken care of creative tasks which need attention.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Do whatever will lighten the atmosphere at home and bring more harmony to the domestic scene as a result.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be quite attractive, very alert and nicely attuned to modern modes of expression. Your child will be very resentful of having antiquated methods imposed upon him or her, so be encouraging in creative ideas which can help to build a successful career.

Lebanese minister authorises intervention by central bank

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's acting finance minister said Sunday the central bank could again intervene in the foreign exchange market in a bid to stabilise the ailing Lebanese lira.

"The reasons for regranting the right of intervention are justified," Mr. Joseph Al Hashem said in an interview on Lebanese television.

"This will make the central bank take up its duties to intervene in the market to buy or sell currencies and rise its foreign currency reserves."

Finance minister Camille Chamoun, who died of a heart attack nine days ago, last month withdrew the central bank's freedom to intervene without his ministry's consent.

The once-resilient lira, battered by political and economic crises, has lost more than 62 per cent of its international value this year.

But bankers doubted if the central bank's restored freedom would help the lira. They estimated the bank's foreign currency reserves at only about \$200 million.

Acting Prime Minister Selim Hoss has proposed selling one-fifth of the country's 9.2 million ounces in gold reserves to try to halt the lira's slide.

Mr. Hashem called on Arab states to help Lebanon to overcome its deepening economic crisis.

"I will not stand idle and watch a people starve to death... I have to sound the alarm because the economic crisis is bound to have negative effects on the Arab World as well," he said. "The Arab World has to take up some responsibility for helping this country."

Hawke faces union opposition for privatisation programme

SYDNEY (R) — Australia's powerful trade unions, a strong political base for Prime Minister Bob Hawke, threatened Monday to go on the offensive if he pressed ahead with privatisation plans.

The Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) senior vice-president, Mr. John Macbean, said the proposed sale of big state corporations to private enterprise would split the ruling Labour Party, now in its third term after winning the general election on July 11.

Treasurer Paul Keating in a mini-budget last May earmarked for sale or lease unspecified parts of the transport and communication industries, embassy properties in Tokyo and Paris and some dockyards to help prune the budget deficit.

He has yet to give details of the privatisation plans, but party officials said they were expected to involve Australian airlines, Qantas, Telecom and the Commonwealth Bank. The sales could include major parts or the complete enterprises.

The move, expected to yield more than one billion dollars

(\$690 million), would be discussed at Labour's national conference in June, two months before the 1988-89 budget, the officials said.

Mr. Hawke, former ACTU president, came to power in 1983 and has since steered his party policies towards deregulation of the financial markets and a greater role for private businesses and industries.

ACTU President Simon Crean said a motion condemning any attempts to sell publicly-owned assets would be considered at a special meeting of the council.

Mr. Macbean said: "The proposed sale of important public assets is an absolutely disgraceful plan for any Labour government, and it would split the party right down the middle."

Minister for transport and communications, Mr. Gareth Evans, said the government was not "locked in" to sell off its major enterprises.

The Victorian branch of the ruling party, known for its extreme left-wing stance, said the proposed sales would be a major policy shift and would spell disaster.

Financial scandal hits Yugoslavia

BELGRADE (AP) — An agricultural firm once held up as a model of rural economic development issued bad bills of exchange worth \$290 million, the Belgrade daily Borba reported last week.

The scandal could have implications for 57 Yugoslav banks. Borba called the affair the heaviest blow to Yugoslavia's financial and monetary system since World War II and said an ongoing investigation is expected to reveal further details.

In a report that gave few specifics, Borba said bills of exchange worth a total of 220 billion dinars (\$290 million) were issued over the past several months by the agro-industrial firm Agrokomer.

The giant complex near the Bosnian town of Bihać issued most of the bills of exchange as payable to a bank in Bihać, Borba said. The bank endorsed the bills, which were generally valid for three months. When they fell due, new bills of exchange were simply issued to cover the old ones, it said.

Borba said reverberations from the scandal are expected to affect at least 57 of Yugoslavia's commercial banks who transferred funds to Agrokomer.

The enterprise, which has been cited in the past as an example of development in an economically backward region, used this good reputation to attract funds from dozens of Yugoslav banks, Borba indicated.

The report did not make clear how Agrokomer had managed to issue bad bills of exchange for such a staggering amount without being detected until now.

Jeepney strike cripples transport in Philippines

MANILA (AP) — Thousands of public transport drivers went on strike Monday in Manila and other cities to demand a rollback on recent fuel price hikes, but President Corason Aquino said the increases would remain.

Several unions representing more than 200,000 "jeepney" drivers and operators called the strike. Jeepneys, unique to the Philippines, are an important form of public transportation. They are based on the design of military jeeps, but are built to carry additional passengers.

Officials said the strike stranded thousands of commuters in Manila and Cebu city, the country's two major metropolitan centres. Manila Mayor Mel Lopez suspended public school classes and ordered government employees to leave work early to avoid being stranded.

The government-run Philippines News Agency (PNA) also reported limited "sympathy strikes" by drivers in Davao city and in Aklan province on Panay island.

No serious violence was reported, but government television said at least 14 strikers were arrested in Manila for intimidating others to join the protest.

Mr. Oscar Lazaro, president of the largest drivers' union, said strike leaders would meet late Monday to decide whether to continue the protest. Transport Undersecretary Manuel Domingo appealed to the drivers to end the strike, but said the price hikes would remain.

Strikers were demanding a rollback of the average 18 per cent increase for all petroleum products that the government announced last Friday, effective immediately.

The government said the move was necessary because the oil price stabilisation fund, used to subsidise fuel prices, had run out

of money due to increases in world petroleum prices.

"We are not asking for an increase in fares," said Mr. Rolando Villasanta, one of the strike leaders. "What we want is a rollback in prices for the sake of the people."

Mrs. Aquino told reporters the senate was planning to investigate the increase but expressed confidence the legislators would find the move was essential.

"I guess the matter is also being investigated by the senate, including the high price of oil," she told reporters. "The fact of the matter is the oil price stabilisation fund is gone."

She insisted that the transport situation was "under control." But PNA said the strike had "paralysed" 80 per cent of Manila's public transport system by the afternoon rush hour and stranded thousands of commuters in Cebu city, 560 kilometres south of the capital.

In Manila, city buses, whose drivers did not strike, were jammed to standing-room-only as commuters sought alternative transportation.

The Metro Manila Commission sent 30 additional buses, and the military provided 20 trucks to provide the streets in search of stranded commuters.

Critics of the increase warned it would drive up prices of a wide range of products for the country's financially strapped consumers.

The National Power Corp., (NPC) which generates electricity for sale to private distribution companies, announced it would raise rates effective Sept. 26 to compensate for higher fuel prices.

The Manila Electric Co., which provides power to consumers in the capital, said it would have to raise its rates too if the NPC goes ahead with its plans.

Final lift begins to save sinking North Sea oil field

OSLO (R) — An army of engineers Monday began jacking up the decks on four North Sea oil platforms in the final phase of a massive project to save Norway's sinking Ekofisk oil field from winter storms, field operators said.

The four multi-storey platforms, weighing a total of 23,000 tonnes, must be lifted simultaneously to avoid severing a maze of interconnecting catwalks and oil production pipelines.

After cutting the fixed platforms' 35 steel legs, 68 huge hydraulic jacks will raise their decks six metres, enabling engineers to insert extension pieces to restore a safe clearance from the highest waves.

"We loosened the bolts this morning, engaged the jacks and should have the platforms bolted in place within the next 24 hours," Mr. Sander Bull-Gjertsen, spokesman for field operator Phillips Petroleum, told Reuters.

The \$600 million rescue project is aimed at regaining sea clearance to prevent 20-metre high North Sea winter waves smashing

into the slowly sinking platforms.

Ekofisk, on the southern end of Norway's North Sea sector, is the victim of seabed subsidence, a rare geological phenomenon occurring when a field's soft, porous rock reservoir is crushed by the weight of the earth's crust as its oil is extracted.

The field has sunk about four metres since it first started producing oil and gas in 1971, and continues to sink at a rate of about 20 centimetres a year, geologists for U.S.-based Phillips Petroleum said.

Some 1,300 engineers are taking part in the rescue project. The platforms must be kept completely level during the lift. We have a margin of error of just a few millimetres," Mr. Bull-Gjertsen said.

Direct satellite transmissions of the lift are beamed to crews at Phillips' offices in the west coast port of Stavanger.

"Conditions today are perfect. We have just a slight breeze on the field. But it is foggy out there, so our satellite pictures are a bit like looking at a glass of milk."

Mideast tension keeps dollar firm

TOKYO (R) — The dollar held firm against the yen in Tokyo trade Monday despite a surprisingly high U.S. trade deficit for the month of June, announced in the United States last Friday.

Tokyo stock prices declined on the deficit news. The 225-share index fell 115.13 points to 25,375.88.

The dollar was supported by continuing tension in the Middle East because dollars are considered a safe investment when war is a possibility, dealers said.

But most Tokyo dealers polled by Reuters said the dollar would fall further against the yen in the long-term.

On Monday it closed at 150.20 yen against 150.10 in New York and 152.40 here on Friday, before America announced its \$15.7 billion June trade deficit.

The dollar ended at 1.8752 West German marks in New York.

"The dollar is likely to resume its bearish tone and fall to around 140 yen in one or two months," said Mr. Tsunehiko Nakayama, senior manager at the Industrial Bank of Japan.

"The larger-than-expected June trade deficit added further evidence of deep-rooted U.S. trade problems and signalled the dollar's long-term weakness," he said.

The dollar-yen exchange rate is basically a reflection of the trade between Japan and the United States, dealers said.

Yen bonds rallied in morning trade on the deficit news but could not sustain the advances, and both bond futures and cash bonds closed lower.

A stronger yen would mean yen-denominated investments become more attractive, dealers said.

Cash bonds fell back on profit-taking in the afternoon. But if the yen does rise against the dollar this could rescue yen bonds, which have been depressed for months, dealers said.

Selling in some recently bought export-oriented companies shares dragged the stockmarket under, brokers said.

But buying of shares, which generally thrive when the yen is high and the dollar low, was still half-hearted because stock investors are by no means certain the yen's strength will last, brokers said.

All eyes are focused on the foreign-exchange market.

"The U.S. trade deficit has apparently been getting worse since April, and the dollar's firm tone will end completely when U.S. July trade data, which is also likely to show little improvement, is released in mid-September," Mr. Motohide Hongo, a treasury department manager at Sumitomo Bank, said.

Mr. Takashi Okura, a vice president at Bank of America's Tokyo exchange unit said: "The dollar will basically trade between 145 and 155 yen because monetary authorities are expected to intervene to maintain the currency's stability."

Moscow experimenting with nuclear blasts to extract oil

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union is conducting experimental nuclear explosions underground to extract oil from deep layers of rock, a senior energy official has said.

Mr. Alexei Zolotov, head of the Soviet geology ministry's oil and gas administration, said a nuclear explosion in the eastern Siberian region of Yakutia last week was the third oil-related blast this year.

He told official TASS news agency the technique aimed to stimulate the flow of oil and gas from low-permeability rock lying among thin beds of rock salt. Soviet officials have said they hoped to boost productivity by 50 per cent in areas using the nuclear extraction technique.

Mr. Zolotov said Moscow pioneered the technique before this part of a unilateral Soviet nuclear testing moratorium in August 1985. The experiments, which proved effective, were suspended until the moratorium ended last February.

"In 1987, the work was resumed," he said. "Three blasts have been conducted. A study of oil flow from the bed is currently under way in the field."

Moscow has said five nuclear blasts were conducted this year

"in the interests of the national economy." They include Tuesday's explosion, two others in Yakutia in July, and two blasts in the Perm region of the Urals last April.

Although Mr. Zolotov did not say which three blasts were involved in the experiment, officials have previously linked the Perm explosions to oil extraction.

Asked about safety, Mr. Zolotov said the blasts were conducted in hermetically-sealed wells designed to prevent the escape of radiation.

"The explosions were conducted at great depth," he said. "Wells were drilled in the area of the (rock) beds and a nuclear charge was placed in them. The bores were cemented up to the surface. After a careful check on the airtightness of the shaft, a blast was conducted."

Mr. Zolotov said there had been no deformation of the earth's surface around the well after the blast.

He said the bores would be opened after about six months and experts would assess the experiment.

Western specialists have said they know of no other country using underground nuclear blasts for oil yield stimulation.

THE Daily Crossword by Victor Jambor Jr.

ACROSS

1. Falls
5. School unit
10. Bullets for short
14. On the ear
15. Shute's river
16. Tree of a carol
17. Cathedral of song
19. Metrical foot
20. Remained firm
21. Side up
23. Small whale
24. Descartes
25. Dash
26. Males face
28. Irritates
29. According to Sobel
32. Morning fare
36. Sweet mix of song
40. Waiting girl of song
41. Adjusting a piano
42. Loathe
43. 1505
44. Slip
45. Old "er"
46. Migrations
47. Shake — (run)
48. Mighty — a
49. Rope
51. Puzzling
53. Midwest VPs
54. Exchange premium
55. Unshakable girl of song
60. Not any; dial
63. Burel palm
64. Island feast
65. Trees
66. Sausage
67. Postcard

DOWN

1. Sweet and —
2. Actor Skinner
3. Yarn ball
4. Confront
5. Assembling
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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

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Peanuts



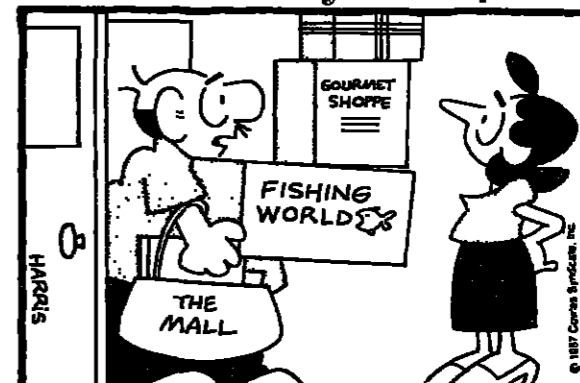
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"Sometimes I can't tell if I'm abusing my credit card or if it's abusing me!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YACKT

ENFEC

KOOCIE

DREHWS

GYM

HE WORE A PLAID VEST IN ORDER TO KEEP THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: SMOKY DAISY FROSTY UPLIFT
Answer: What ice is — "SKID" STUFF

South Korea to release more political prisoners

SEOUL, South Korea (Agencies) — The ruling party indicated Monday that it would release more political prisoners, a step the opposition insists is necessary to smooth South Korea's transition to a more democratic government.

"We will positively consider releasing even leading members of terrorist or leftist groups if they repent," said Representative Nam Jae-Hee, chief policymaker of the ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP).

Mr. Nam's statement was interpreted as indicating the ruling party's willingness to accept the opposition demand that all political prisoners be freed before a new constitution is adopted.

Since the July 1 agreement by the government to sweeping democratic reforms, 753 political prisoners have been released and 2,335 people have had their civil rights restored.

In recent days, dissident groups have clashed with riot police at least twice in Seoul, demanding that all political prisoners be freed.

The main opposition Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) proposed Monday that top officials discuss the constitution and the release of political prisoners.

The proposed meeting would involve President Chun Doo-Hwan; Mr. Roh Tae-Woo, head of the ruling party; and two opposition leaders, Kim Young-Sam and Kim Dae-Jung, said RDP spokesman Kim Tae-Ryong.

An eight-member bipartisan committee was scheduled to finish drafting a new constitution by Thursday, but may need until the end of the month, officials said.

Remaining issues of disagreement include an opposition demand that the voting age be lowered from 20 to 18. The change would increase by 1.7

million the total number of eligible voters, currently estimated at 25.6 million.

By official count, 49.6 per cent of Korea's voters are between the ages of 20 and 35 who have never voted in direct presidential elections. South Korea now has an indirect Electoral College system.

The final step for approval of a new constitution involves a national referendum. An election to pick the country's next president is expected to be held later this year. Mr. Chun has said he will step down in February.

Meanwhile, an unruly day-long protest by up to 30,000 workers at South Korea's top exporter, Hyundai, ended Monday but labour leaders vowed to return if demands remained unmet, press and witness reports said.

At least 30 workers were injured in sporadic clashes with police at the protests, involving six factories at the conglomerate's main industrial base in the southern city Ulsan, witnesses said, with 16 admitted to hospital.

It was the largest labour protest so far in the wave of worker unrest sweeping South Korea and started this morning when the company locked out the workers.

The protesters, ignoring on-and-off heavy rain, battered down closed factory gates with sledge hammers, took over plants of Hyundai's six divisions and burned a huge effigy of Hyundai founder Chung Ju-Yung, witnesses said.

When workers spilled over to nearby streets or marched out of the plant compounds, they were confronted by at least 50 bus-

loads of riot police who fired teargas to contain the demonstrators.

Witnesses said many workers fought back with umbrellas, steel pipes and stones.

The influential daily newspaper Dong-A Ilbo said the 30,000 workers left the plants at the call of union leaders who said they were giving the company one more day to respond.

Witnesses told Reuters at least 1,000 workers, angered that power, food and water had been cut off at nearby company dormitories, staged a sit-in protest.

The clash took place as South Korea launched a massive nationwide military training exercise Monday.

Government officials said they are attaching special significance to the annual exercise because of growing social instability caused by ongoing labour disputes.

Culture Information Minister Lee Woon-Hee said the defensive war game will be conducted strenuously this year to "safeguard the nation from growing dangers within and without."

The defensive exercise, dubbed "Ulchi 87" and involving nearly all military, government and civilian personnel, is to continue until Saturday with a simulated surprise attack by North Korea across the 240-kilometre border.

Mr. Lee, who serves as an official government spokesman, said South Korea's social and economic stability was in great danger in the face of escalating labour disputes seeking to solve longstanding grievances "at once and decisively."

South Korea, Mr. Lee said, also faced a threat from North Korea to scuttle the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

On Monday, at least 276 workplaces were fully or partially shut down.

Floods cut highway in Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — Floods cut a major Bangladesh highway Monday and threatened the capital of the country, where 400 people have been killed in recent weeks.

Officials said flood waters from the Meghna River devoured the highway that links the capital of Dhaka with the country's main seaport in Chittagong.

A squad of engineers went immediately to work, but they were prevented from doing much by the strong currents of the flood waters.

The dam breach that permitted the latest flooding also caused flooding to a vast low-lying area in Sonargaon and Rugganji sub-districts and destroyed an estimated 50 tonnes of rice crop, the officials said.

Floods are also threatening Dhaka, a city of four million people, because the Buriganga River is rising, a flood control official said.

He said the river, which flows by the capital, has already crossed the danger level. Large suburban areas would be flooded if it rose another half inch (1.25 cm).

"The only good thing is that we haven't had any fresh reports of death," an official at the emergency relief centre told Reuters.

Four hundred people have been killed in the floods, the worst in 40 years, that rampaged through northern Bangladesh in the past three weeks.

More than half a million people have taken shelter in 20 makeshift camps where the government and the Red Cross are running charity kitchens, they said.

The army brought speed boats Monday to save people still marooned in the area, the officials said.

President Hossain Mohammad Ershad flew in an army helicopter to more flood-hit areas in the north and reassured the victims that he would send enough food so that nobody died of starvation.

Major opposition parties have criticised his tour, saying he is wasting money by helicopter travel.

Indian farmers depend on the monsoon — the seasonal rains that usually wash the subcontinent from June through September — for three-fourths of the country's annual rainfall.

Scientists are unsure why the monsoon failed this year.

Black S. African worker killed in fight over strike

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — One black worker was killed and two were injured in fighting between supporters and opponents of a strike at the government's collieries and liquid fuel plants, the company said Monday.

A spokesman for the Chemical Workers Industrial Union said it had heard two men were dead, but neither the union nor management at the South African Coal, Oil and Gas Corp. (SASOL) could say which side had sustained the casualties.

A strike by up to 15,000 chemical workers and miners was scheduled Monday at the mines and coal-to-oil plants near Secunda, east of Johannesburg, but SASOL spokesman Jan Krynauw said everyone had gone to work normally.

He announced several hours later the violence had occurred Sunday after the union held meetings "to convince workers to strike."

"A significant number of employees resisted these actions and isolated incidents of confrontation occurred during which three employees were injured. One of them later died," Mr. Krynauw said.

The strike at Secunda was called by the 200,000-member National Union of Mineworkers, said Sunday he thought the chemical workers were "acting in solidarity with the miners. They could have delayed their strike."

In the eight day of its strike against two-thirds of South Africa's biggest gold and coal mines, the mineworkers union accepted an invitation to meet Monday afternoon with the Anglo American Corp., the country's largest gold producer.

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led to demand two paid holidays of significance to blacks. The National Union of Mineworkers, engaged in the country's largest-ever legal strike, said it believed the chemical workers' action was in sympathy with its strike.

The chemical workers, demanding May 1 — International Workers Day — and June 16 — anniversary of the 1976 Soweto riots — as holidays, said management had "moved swiftly" Sunday night to block the strike.

Mr. Krynauw said the number of workers on the job Monday confirmed management's belief that the strike ballots were "neither secret nor impartial and consequently neither valid nor a true reflection of the feelings of SASOL's employees."

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COLUMNS 768

Elvis faithful end anniversary week

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Elvis Presley fans were leaving Memphis on Monday following an emotional nine-day observance marking the 10th anniversary of the singer's death. "We just wanted to be close to Elvis at this time. It's such a special year," said Lorraine Punter of London as she looked over the rows of flower stands along a walkway to Presley's grave. Ms. Punter, 23, saved money for 18 months to make the pilgrimage. The celebration, called Elvis International Tribute Week, drew more than 50,000 tourists and fans to Presley's former residence, the Graceland, and its souvenir shopping centre. Managers of the Graceland, the faithful came from the United States, France, Switzerland, Sweden, Japan and other foreign countries to take part in dances, musical shows, memorial services, Elvis trivia contests and tours of places around town that played a part in Presley's life. The largest single event, a candlelight vigil past Presley's grave in small Graceland garden, drew up to 20,000 spectators and participants, said Todd Morgan, a spokesman for the Graceland division of Elvis Presley Enterprises. "This whole week has been exactly what we expected it to be," Morgan said. Members of the Elvis Country Fan Club of Austin, Texas, the primary organisers of the annual vigil, released two white doves as the all-night procession ended.

Homeless in London face eviction

LONDON (AP) — Homeless people face eviction from their makeshift shelters of cardboard boxes, bags and newspapers under the railway bridge at Charing Cross in London, the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) reported Monday. The shelters, known as "cardboard city," will be cleared away by Westminster Council so that shops and offices can be built in the area, the BBC said. Since World War II, men and women have slept on the sidewalks under the bridge. The salvation army estimates 10,000 people are homeless in London. "There is nowhere for these people to go — our hostels are full," said Michael Carroll of the St. Mungo Housing Trust, which runs shelters for the homeless. Westminster Council has said it will provide accommodation for homeless people who have registered with local authorities.

Turkish brothels lose their mirrors

ANKARA (R) — Brothels in Izmir, western Turkey, have been ordered to remove their mirrors following a protest by the wives of patrons. The semi-official Anatolian Agency said some brothel owners had fixed mirrors to walls and ceilings to boost business, but by AIDS fears and high summer temperatures. But wives complained to a municipal prostitution committee which, after reflection, ordered the mirrors to be taken down and said offending owners would be fined. Most towns in Turkey have brothels licensed by the municipality with a fixed scale of charges and strict rules. Prostitutes have police permits and undergo regular health checks.

Liz Taylor discusses her drug addiction

NEW YORK (R) — Actress Elizabeth Taylor has said in an interview her addiction to drugs and alcohol would have killed her had she not sought treatment. Ms. Taylor told Cosmopolitan magazine she "of course, absolutely, no question" would have killed herself because she mixed alcohol